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Saturday January 17 1998

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 Algeria US$ 2 Andorra FF 10 Austria AS 30 Bahrain BD 0.85 Belgium BF 70 Bulgaria LV 500 Canada C$ 3.95 Croatia KN 12.50 Cyprus CE 1.00 Czech Republic KC56 Denmark DK 17 Dubai D 8.50 Egypt EE 8.50 Estonia K 30 Finland FM 15 France FF 12 Germany DM 3.90 Greece D 500 Hong Kong HK$ 25 Hungary F 280 Iceland IK 165 Israel NIS 11.50 Italy L 3,500 Jordan JD 1.25 Kenya KSH 150 Kuwait KD 0.50 Latvia US$ 2 Lebanon LL 3000 Luxembourg LF 65 Madeira E 270 Malta ML 0.50 Morocco D 25 Netherlands G 4.25 Norway NK 16 Oman OR 1.00 Pakistan R 90 Poland Z 6.20 Portugal E 240 Qatar QR 8.50 Reunion US$ 2.75 Saudi Arabia R 10 Slovakia SK 65 Slovenia SLT 280 Spain P 250 Sweden SK 17 Switzerland SF 3.50 Thailand B 80 Turkey TL 170,000 Ukraine US$ 3.50 USA US$ 3.00

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Vision of our future

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This way Armageddon

Can the cult set on mass suicide be stopped?

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Final frontier

Henman back to his best in Sydney

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Sport for all, at last

S Africa pitches in to fair play

Matthew Engel

THE rainbow nation gained one further touch of richness in its colour scheme yesterday when South Africa was, for the first time, represented in an international cricket match by a black man.

The fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, aged 20, took two crucial wickets to help South Africa to victory in a one-day game against New Zealand in Perth. He won widespread praise for his pace, accuracy, fielding and enthusiasm as he deputised for the national team's star Allan Donald.

Ntini made his debut eight years after the last team of English cricketing mercenaries, led by Mike Gatting, slunk away from South Africa, having failed to shore up cricket as played under the apartheid regime. Nelson Mandela was still in jail at the time, and Ntini was at school.

The breakthrough came 18 years after the first English rebel team, led by Graham Gooch, arrived in Pretoria and an official said that blacks were extremely welcome to play too. "They can do the fielding," he said.

In those days, whites generally believed that cricket was too complex for Africans, unaware that high-standard games had been played on stony, dusty tracks in the Eastern Cape and the Border (East London) area since the 19th century. Ntini's father played for Border in the old non-white competitions.

Since then, South African cricket has cleansed itself pretty thoroughly. President Mandela has praised the game for its commitment to development — in pointed contrast to rugby.

Three members of the Cape Coloured community had already appeared for South Africa, but no representative from the black majority, and pressure was building in some quarters for affirmative action. This was not a crucial match: Donald might have played if it had been.

However, Ntini's initial success gives the administrators breathing space. South Africa play in England this summer and Ntini's performance increases the likelihood that he will be in the team on merit.

Makhaya Ntini, the first black man to play for South Africa in an international cricket match PHOTOGRAPH: GREG FORD

UK 'ready to fight' Saddam

Ian Black, David Fairhall and Julian Borger

BRITAIN last night signalled determination to use force against Iraq, sending HMS Invincible to the Gulf to warn Saddam Hussein that in the last resort it would join the United States in punishing his attempts to undermine United Nations weapons inspections.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said the aircraft carrier, now off Cyprus, was being sent as an "unmistakable signal" of readiness to fight, though he made clear that Britain, like the US, would prefer a diplomatic solution to Baghdad's latest challenge to the international community.

The announcement came as a UN arms team led by a former US marine officer, Scott Ritter, left the Iraqi capital because it had been prevented from doing its work of searching for banned chemical and biological weapons. Baghdad has said Mr Ritter is a spy, a charge Washington denies.

The latest crisis is a near carbon copy of what happened in October, when President Saddam exploited divisions in the UN Security Council to try to halt the inspections, hide weapons and hasten the end of the punitive sanctions imposed after his invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

A clean bill of health from the inspectors is a key requirement before the sanctions can be lifted.

Despite yesterday's sabre-rattling, neither Washington nor London wants a fight that would be opposed by fellow Security Council members Russia and France and — unless it succeeded in toppling or killing him — would almost certainly play into President Saddam's hands.

Speaking in Washington the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said the Invincible had been despatched as a "precautionary move".

Mr Robertson said: "The priority is a diplomatic outcome. But at the end of the day we have to have other options and that is why it makes sense for Invincible with its Harriers on board to go closer."

Diplomats insisted that there were no immediate plans for military action. "This is part of a continual policy of signalling to Saddam that we will use diplomatic efforts backed up by force," said one well-placed source.

"Sending the carrier wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision. Both the US and the UK decided that once this crisis started we would take a steady stream of steps to continually signal military resolve. But we're not going to be bombing Iraq over the weekend."

Military analysts pointed out that if immediate action were being contemplated it would be much quicker to deploy RAF Tornado bombers, a few of which are already patrolling southern Iraq from bases in Saudi Arabia. These would have to obtain permission from an Arab host country for punitive raids against Iraqi targets. In the current climate this would not be forthcoming.

The next steps involve a visit to Baghdad on Monday by Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat who heads the UN inspection mission, Unscom.

As well as blocking Mr Ritter's team, Iraq has barred all Unscom inspectors from visiting several dozen sites deemed "sensitive" by Baghdad, including many of President Saddam's palaces.

Mr Butler is then expected to report back to the UN Security Council, which is likely to issue another in a series of resolutions condemning Iraq and demanding its compliance. He is also likely to consider reconfiguring the teams to address Iraqi complaints of US and British dominance.

The Russian defence minister, Igor Sergeyev, offered his country's surveillance aircraft to take the place of American U2 spy-planes, but the offer was turned down yesterday by his US counterpart, William Cohen.

China and France have put forward lists of their own experts to take the place of US and British inspectors.

Invincible expects to pass through the Suez Canal this weekend and reach the Gulf about five days later.

Carrier-born aircraft, in this case six RAF Harrier GR7s and six Royal Navy Sea Harriers, can operate independently alongside the US navy's task force. President Saddam knows this and is more likely to take seriously the threat of force issued by Washington and London in support of UN inspectors.

The RAF GR7s carry highly accurate laser-guided bombs. However, without the Saudi-based Tornados, these could be used only with US aircraft to illuminate their targets. The Tornados have their own self-contained laser bombing system.

A second British carrier, HMS Illustrious, will sail from Portsmouth on Monday to relieve Invincible if the crisis drags on.

Martin Woollacott, page 8

Countdown

Oct 29, 1997: Iraq bars Americans from weapons teams on its territory. Security Council condemns decision and the UN Special Commission (Unscom), set up after the Gulf war to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, suspends operations.

Nov 3: Iraq warns it will shoot down U-2 spy planes flying over its territory.

Nov 20: Russia intervenes to persuade Saddam Hussein to back down in return for working to end sanctions.

Jan 12: Iraq bans Unscom team led by American Scott Ritter.

Jan 16: HMS Invincible ordered to Gulf to signal determination to use force.

Tamworth One cops it in copse, ending great escape

The Sundance Pig, back in custody after week on run

Geoffrey Gibbs

AFTER more than a week on the run the Sundance Pig was not going to come quietly. His partner might have been captured, but the porker that got away was determined to enjoy his last moments of freedom.

For hours again yesterday he frustrated police officers, RSPCA inspectors, dog handlers and a watching army of 100 journalists and camera crews by hiding in a dense thicket of brambles at Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury, in Wiltshire.

Flushed out at last by a spaniel named Pepsi, the fugitive scampered across a field to a copse before turning to face the inevitable tranquilliser gun.

Even then he was not going to make it easy. Twice the anaesthetic-laden darts bounced off his hide. But as RSPCA inspector Mike Harley fired for a third time the pig's movements slowed.

A "snout grabber" was placed over his head to restrain his movements. The pig's days on the run were over.

Last night the youthful young Ginger Tamworth boar, who escaped from the town's slaughterhouse with a female companion, was resting in a veterinary hospital's recovery pen. "It's an ordinary healthy pig," said Mr Harley. "I am very glad that we caught it today and that it is a happy ending."

Vets and the Daily Mail, which now claims ownership of the two pigs, were taking no chances that an animal described by police as "cunning and devious" would repeat his escape.

Sundance — groggy but back on his feet — was being held in a chained and padlocked pen behind 6ft high gates. Vet Fran Baird expected the boar to make a full recovery but said it would remain at the hospital for a day or so.

Once recovered the boar will be taken to the Langley Wild Animal Rescue Sanctuary, near Chippenham, where owners Kevin and Debbie Stinchcombe are already looking after Sundance's companion — the pig formerly known as Butch, now renamed Tammy.

The drama, which warranted the close attention of American TV crews as well as the massed ranks of the British media, began on Thursday last week when council road-sweeper Arnoldo Dijulio was delivering three Ginger Tamworth boars to Newman's slaughterhouse in Malmesbury.

As the trailer in which they were being carried was opened, two of the animals made off in front of stunned slaughterhouse staff. They wriggled under the perimeter fence, raced over a field and swam across the swollen river Avon.

Their exploits made them a cause célèbre in Malmesbury and far beyond. Radio 5 Live devoted a morning phone-in session to the issue, ITN sent its helicopter to try to find the pigs, and the King's Arms Hotel, in Malmesbury, did its bit by displaying a board urging: "Save the Tamworth Two. Eat Beef on the Bone."

Leader comment, page 6

"I've got a very clear idea of the type of the system we should have in the end — yes." To my remark that his categoric certainty about the big picture was something I'd noticed in every talk we'd had for the last four years, he laughed jovially, with only the faintest hint of denial

Hugo Young meets Tony Blair
The Week

Britain World News Sport The Week

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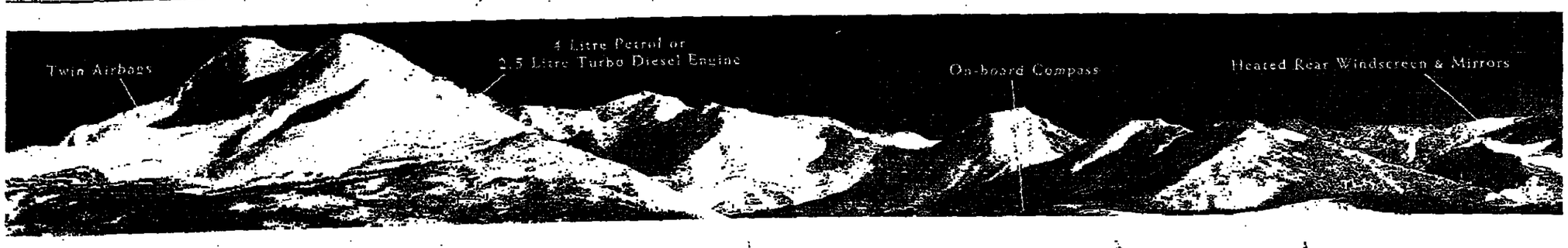


Alleged victim in tears gives evidence

Girl 'raped previously'

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

THE 10-year-old girl alleged to have been raped and indecently assaulted by classmates during a school lunch break broke down in tears yesterday as she was asked about her past. She denied wanting to be touched by the boys or playing with them when the incident took place.

Two 10-year-old boys are charged with raping the girl in the boys' lavatory at a west London primary school in May last year. The same two boys and two others, aged 10 and 11, are charged with indecent assault. All four plead not guilty.

Giving evidence by video link for the second day at the Old Bailey, the girl told Steven Kay QC, defending, that she had been born in Jamaica and had lived there in her early years with her grandmother and aunt because her mother was in England.

She said a neighbour in Jamaica, aged about 30, had taken her and other girls to his house and had raped her. Other men had taken part in the sexual assaults, she added.

She had been happy to come to England and go to school where she played football with the boys. She told Mr Kay that once when she had *gone swimming* with other girls, she had been called a lesbian. "People spread rumours at school," she said of the incident.

The girl, who during one period of cross-examination was playing with a plastic puzzle, accepted that once she had been excluded from school for four days for fighting. She said one of the boys had called her names and he had also been excluded.

Asked if she had sworn at a police officer who had given a talk at the school about how to behave, she replied: "I wasn't swearing at him. My mum told me never to swear. I just said one word and I'm not allowed to say what it is."

She agreed she had had a boyfriend in her class but denied asking the accused to be her boyfriends. She said she had not played in the boys' lavatories. She added she had not known how to read when she first arrived and had gone into the boys' lavatories by mistake.

Asked by Mr Kay about the alleged rape and assault, she said: "I tried to scream but they covered my mouth."

"You wanted them to touch you, didn't you?" asked Mr Kay.

"No," she replied.

"You were playing with them?"

"No."

Following further questions, she said: "I told you all the answers and I can't remember any more. I don't want to remember any more."

"Have you been told off at school for making stories up that someone had hurt you?" asked Mr Kay.

"I'm not making up the story because I wouldn't want [her relative] to get hurt and I wouldn't want the other boys to get hurt. Can you leave me alone?"

On a number of occasions, the girl broke down and the court rose. The judge, Mrs Justice Bracewell, told the girl that Mr Kay had to ask her the questions but she would ensure there were not too many.

The case continues on Monday.

Spencer loses privacy laws battle

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

EARL Spencer's attempt *to force Britain to* enact tougher privacy laws failed yesterday, when his case was thrown out by the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The commission ruled inadmissible a claim by Princess Diana's brother and his former wife, Victoria, that the Government's failure to protect his family from the media breached article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees "respect for private and family life".

Reasons for the decision will not be released for a fortnight. But the rationale is expected to be either that the Spencers should have brought proceedings for breach of confidence in Britain before resorting to Strasbourg, or that the English law of confidence is a sufficient remedy to fulfil Britain's obligations under the convention.

The commission might also have been influenced by the fact that the Spencers had put themselves and their children in the public eye with a picture spread in Hello! magazine. Earl Spencer has also spoken publicly about his marriage difficulties.

Strasbourg rules require applicants to exhaust any legal remedies available in their home country before launching a claim at the commission. So the claim could have been scuppered by the Spencers' failure to sue the tabloids they accuse of infringing their privacy for breach of confidence.

Alternatively, the commission might have accepted the Government's argument that the availability and scope of the breach of confidence remedy, which judges are developing into a privacy law, meets Britain's obligations. Strasbourg case law lays strong emphasis on the competing right of freedom of expression as an essential safeguard in a democracy.

A spokeswoman for the Press Complaints Commission said its chairman, Lord Wakeham, had decided not to comment on the outcome of the case. But human rights lawyers were not surprised it was thrown out.

At a three-hour hearing in private before 19 commissioners, the earl's lawyers claimed article 8 was violated by accounts of Countess Spencer's eating disorders and alcoholism three years ago, and by publication of a photograph taken of her without her knowledge and consent at the clinic where she was treated.

The Spencers' lawyers argued the law of confidence was not a sufficient safeguard, because there was no way the subject of an article could learn that publication was planned so as to stop it. They also claimed there was no realistic prospect of getting compensation from the newspaper afterwards.

But government lawyers claimed the couple could have made a claim for breach of confidence against the newspapers, as they did against two friends who had leaked information to the tabloids.

A spokeswoman for Earl Spencer said he would not be commenting on the decision.

Earl Spencer, who lost privacy laws fight at the European Commission of Human Rights

Blair to apologise for 'Sunday shootings'

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

TONY Blair is to apologise on Wednesday for the events of Bloody Sunday, when the army shot dead 14 unarmed anti-internment marchers in Londonderry in what proved to be a turning point in the Troubles. The killings, on January 30 1972, led to a strengthening of the IRA.

The Prime Minister, who spoke to Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, for 15 minutes yesterday, *also plans to* announce to the Commons that there will be a partial inquiry into the shootings. A senior judge is expected to be asked to review the evidence, including new testimony forwarded by the Irish government last year. It threw fresh doubt on the conclusions of the Widgery report, which in effect exonerated the army.

An apology and a limited review would fall short of campaigners' demands — supported by the Irish government — for a fresh judicial investigation. Mr Blair may reconsider after further talks with Mr Ahern.

Norman Godman, the chairman of the Labour Party backbench Northern Ireland committee, said he believed a full inquiry was being delayed by senior figures in the Ministry of Defence. They are said to be worried about its impact on the army's role.

Nationalists were enraged in 1972 when Lord Widgery's report found that the soldiers had been fired on first and were telling the truth when they said they had fired in self-defence. It led to a new low in relations between Whitehall and Dublin.

Unionists do not want the investigation reopened. Reg Empey, an Ulster Unionist negotiator at Stormont, demanded that Mr Blair also announce an inquiry into events leading to the gun-running trial of 1970.

PM's secret box of tricks stolen

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

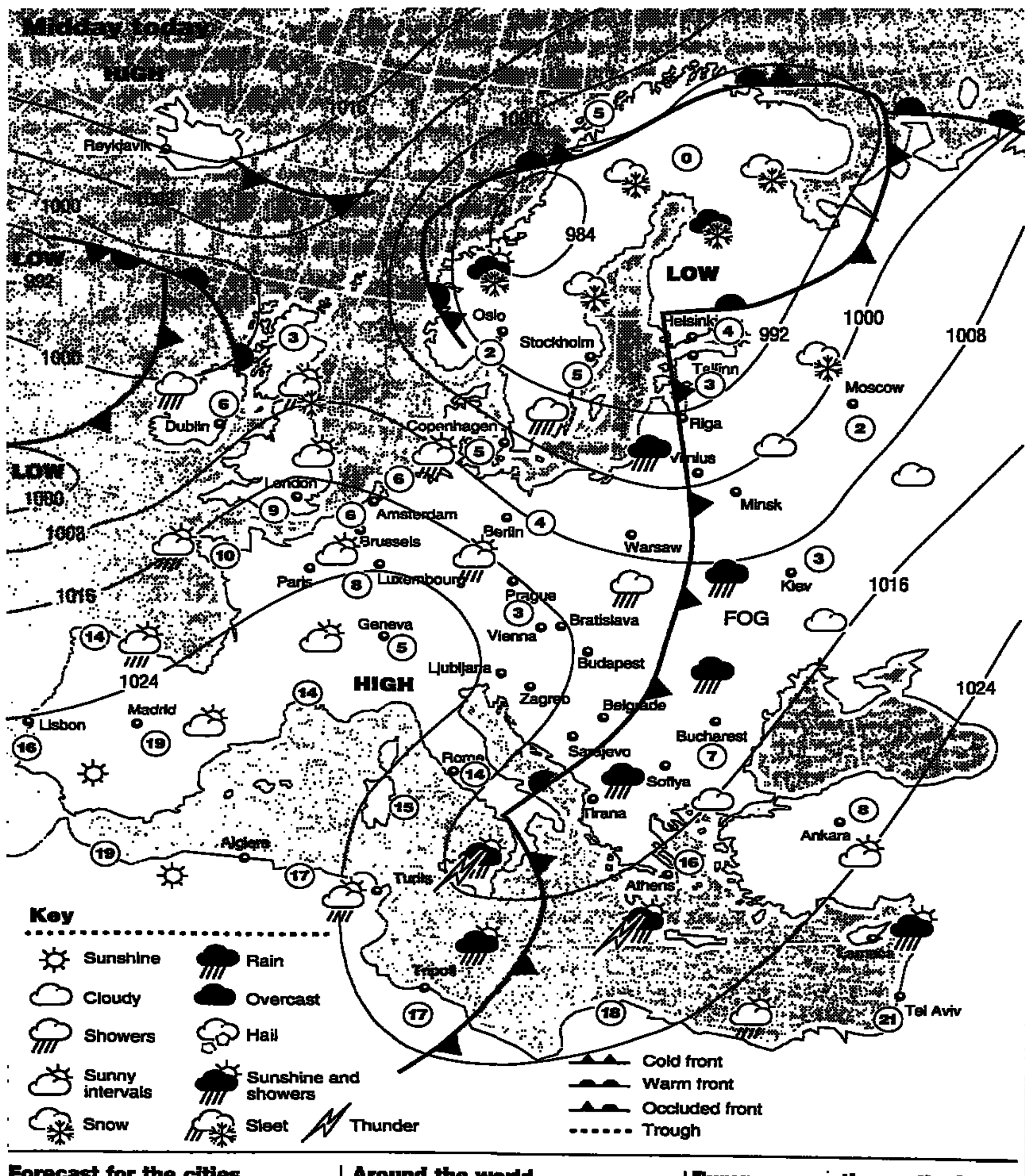
AN EMBARASSED Whitehall last night confirmed that a black box for sending secret messages between the Prime Minister and the security services had been stolen from the Cabinet Office.

A spokeswoman would only say of the scrambler, the size of a video recorder: "An Internet encryption device has been reported missing." She said there were no security implications.

The theft from the office in heavily-guarded Downing Street is thought to have taken place over Christmas. Scotland Yard confirmed that a investigation was under way.

The device protects computer communications between Downing Street, MI5 and MI6 and other Whitehall departments.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	17	4	F
Amsterdam	6	2	Sh
Athens	17	11	F
Berlin	6	1	R
Bonn	6	0	Sh
Brussels	6	2	F
Copenhagen	5	-2	Sh
Crete	16	9	C
Geneva	6	-1	Sh
Larnaca	18	9	F
London	9	5	F
Madrid	11	4	F
Milan	12	3	F
Nice	17	6	S
Oslo	2	-9	Sn
Paris	8	2	F
Rome	14	3	Sh
Stockholm	5	-1	Dr
Tunis	15	10	Sh
Vienna	7	1	R

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	18	9	F
Amsterdam	5	1	Sh
Athens	18	11	Sh
Berlin	5	-2	Sh
Bonn	5	-2	Sh
Brussels	5	-1	Sh
Copenhagen	3	1	F
Crete	17	10	Sh
Geneva	4	0	Sh
Larnaca	17	9	F
London	8	2	R
Madrid	13	6	C
Milan	8	3	Sh
Nice	13	7	F
Oslo	-3	-6	Sn
Paris	7	2	Sh
Rome	13	-1	S
Stockholm	0	-6	Sn
Tunis	16	9	F
Vienna	5	-3	F

Monday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	20	10	F
Amsterdam	4	0	H
Athens	16	12	C
Berlin	2	-3	Sh
Bonn	3	-1	Sh
Brussels	4	-1	Sh
Copenhagen	3	-1	Sl
Crete	16	11	Sh
Geneva	6	1	H
Larnaca	18	9	Sh
London	7	1	Dr
Madrid	15	8	C
Milan	9	1	Sh
Nice	14	7	Sh
Oslo	-2	-7	Sn
Paris	6	1	H
Rome	12	2	Sh
Stockholm	-1	-3	Sn
Tunis	19	10	Sh
Vienna	2	-3	Sn

Tuesday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	20	8	Sh
Amsterdam	2	-1	Sn
Athens	17	11	R
Berlin	1	-3	Sn
Bonn	1	-4	Sl
Brussels	-1	-3	Sn
Copenhagen	3	-1	Sl
Crete	18	11	Sh
Geneva	4	0	Sh
Larnaca	19	10	Sh
London	6	0	H
Madrid	13	4	F
Milan	10	1	F
Nice	15	6	S
Oslo	-4	-6	Sn
Paris	5	0	H
Rome	13	2	F
Stockholm	-1	-2	Sn
Tunis	18	10	Sh
Vienna	0	-3	Sn

C cloudy; Cl clear; Dr drizzle; F fair; Fg fog; H hail; Hz haze; R rain; Sh showers; Sl sleet; Sn snow; S sunny; Th thunder; *(previous day's readings)

Around the world

Lunchtime yesterday (previous day in Americas)

Ajaccio	C	13	55
Amsterdam	R	8	46
Anchorage	C	-6	21
Athens	C	14	57
Atlanta	R	3	37
B Aires	C	26	79
Barbados	F	30	86
Barcelona	F	14	57
Belgrade	Fg	3	37
Berlin	C	7	45
Bermuda	F	21	70
Biarritz	Sh	12	54
Bombay	S	28	82
Bordeaux	Sh	10	50
Boston	C	-4	25
Brisbane	C	29	84
Brussels	Sh	9	48
Budapest	C	4	39
Cairo	S	19	66
Calcutta	S	26	79
Calgary	C	-14	7
Cape Town	S	24	75
Casablanca	F	16	61
Chicago	Sn	-3	27
Christchurch	C	13	55
Corfu	C	15	59
Dakar	S	31	88
Dallas	S	7	45
Darwin	F	30	86
Dhaka	F	22	72
Dublin	S	7	45
Florence	M	7	45
Frankfurt	C	8	46
Geneva	R	7	45
Gibraltar	S	16	61
Hamburg	C	8	46
Helsinki	Dr	2	36
Hong Kong	C	16	61
Honolulu	S	30	86
Innsbruck	C	6	43
Istanbul	S	10	50
Jersey	Sh	9	48
Jerusalem	F	16	61
Jo'burg	F	25	77
Karachi	S	20	68
Kiev	Fg	1	34
Kingston	S	30	86
L'Aticea	F	19	66

Lima	S	30	86
Lisbon	Sh	15	59
London	F	9	48
Los Angeles	Dr	13	55
Luxembourg	R	6	43
Madrid	F	8	46
Majorca	S	16	61
Malaga	F	17	63
Malta	F	15	59
Mecca	G	29	84
Melbourne	S	27	81
Mexico City	n/a		
Miami	C	25	77
Milan	R	6	43
Montreal	Sn	-16	3
Moscow	Sn	-3	27
Munich	C	6	43
Nairobi	C	23	73
Naples	M	16	61
New Delhi	F	28	82
New Orleans	C	17	63
New York	C	1	34
Nice	R	8	46
Oslo	C	4	39
Paris	Sh	9	48
Perth	F	22	72
Prague	C	6	43
Reykjavik	S	7	45
Rhodes	C	16	61
Rio de Jan.	C	30	86
Rome	S	12	54
Sarajevo	Fg	3	37
Singapore	F	33	91
Stockholm	C	6	43
Strasbourg	C	9	48
Sydney	C	23	73
Tel Aviv	S	18	64
Tenerife	S	25	77
Tokyo	C	6	43
Toronto	Sn	-8	18
Tunis	F	15	59
Valencia	F	17	63
Vancouver	C	10	50
Venice	M	9	48
Vienna	Fg	1	34
Warsaw	C	4	39
Washington	R	1	34
Zurich	R	5	41

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:

It will be very mild in most parts. Finland and western Norway will have some heavy rain with showers elsewhere. Snow and subzero temperatures will be restricted to northern Sweden and Lapland only. Max temps ranging from 0C in the north to 6C in the south.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:

Heavy rain will clear Bavaria and Switzerland during the morning to leave sunshine and blustery showers for the rest of the day. The west will have the best sunshine. Max temps ranging from 3C in the Black Forest to 8C in the Netherlands.

France:

Eastern parts will see a little rain at first but most parts will have a fine and dry day. Cloud will increase in the west again later. Max temps 6C in Alsace, 13C in the Dordogne.

Spain and Portugal:

The Mediterranean resorts and the Algarve will be notably fine and pleasantly warm, but the northwest will become showery later. Max temps 10C on the Mesata, 19C on the Costa del Sol.

Italy:

Sicily and the southern half of the country will be dull and wet, with frequent rain and scattered thunderstorms. Northern parts will be much drier with sunny intervals. Max temps ranging from 11C in Milan to 15C in Palermo.

Greece:

Although there may be a few bright spells near Athens to start, heavy rain with scattered thunderstorms are likely everywhere later. Max temp around 16C.

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1

8.00am Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe. 8.20 News and Weather. 8.25 Children's BBC: Christopher Crocodile. 8.30 Noddy. 8.40 Highlander. 9.05 Conan the Adventurer. 9.30 The New Adventures of Superman. 10.15 Live and Kicking. 1.12 Weather. 1.15 Grandstand. 6.15 News and Weather. 6.25 Regional News and Sport. 6.30 Are You Being Served? 7.00 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. 8.00 Noel's House Party. 8.50 The National Lottery Draw. 9.25 Casualty. 10.05 National Lottery Update. 10.10 FILM: Dancing with Danger. 11.30 News and Sport. 11.50 Match of the Day. 1.00 The Stand-Up Show. 1.30 Top of the Pops. 2.00 FILM: A Child for Satan. 3.20 Weather. 3.25 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

8.05am FILM: The Blue Parrot. 9.10 FILM: I Know Where I'm Going. 10.40 The Sky at Night. 11.00 Q Asia. 11.30 Fifty Years On: Independence. 12.20 Cafe 21. 12.50 The Whitbread: The World's Greatest Ocean Race. 1.20 Life Goes on in the Kalahari. 2.05 The Phil Silvers Show. 2.30 Film '98 with Barry Norman. 3.00 FILM: To Hell and Back. 4.45 The Saint. 5.35 One Man and His Dog. 6.20 TOTP 2. 7.05 Timewatch. 7.55 News and Sport. 8.10 Scrutiny: The Class of '97. 9.00 What the Papers Say. 9.10 Great Composers. 10.10 Game On. 10.40 Operation Good Guys. 11.10 Looking After Jo Jo. 12.00 Video Diaries. 12.50 FILM: The Fisher King. 3.00 Weather. 3.05 Close. 4.00 Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize: Maths. 6.00 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Noddy. 7.40 The Artbox Bunch. 7.55 Simon and the Witch. 8.10 Activ8. 8.35 Century Falls. 9.05 Blue Peter. 9.30 Grange Hill Omnibus. 10.05 Dr Who: The Android Invasion. 10.30 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week. 10.55 Ready, Steady, Cook. 11.25 World Weather. 11.30 EastEnders Omnibus. 12.50 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week. 1.20 Ready Steady Cook. 1.50 Kilroy. 2.30 Vets in Practice. 3.00 The Onedin Line. 3.50 World Weather. 3.55 Mortimer and Arabel. 4.10 Billy Webb's Amazing Story. 4.35 Blue Peter. 5.00 Grange Hill Omnibus. 5.35 Top of the Pops. 6.05 Dr Who: The Android Invasion. 6.30 Tracks. 7.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. 7.30 Are You Being Served? 8.00 Noel's House Party. 9.00 Spender. 9.50 World Weather. 10.00 Red Dwarf II. 10.30 Ruby Wax Meets. 11.00 Shooting Stars. 11.30 TOTP2. 12.15 Later with Jools Holland. 1.25 World Weather. 2.30 Understanding the Oceans. 5.30 Ways with Words. 6.00 Developing Language.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.30 World Living: Earth Report. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 9.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 10.00 World Headlines and Weather. 10.05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the Americas. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: Holiday. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 12.30 This Week. 1.00 World Headlines and Weather. 1.05 Weekend World: Horizon. 2.00 World Headlines and Weather. 2.05 Weekend World: Crusades. 3.00 World News and Weather. 3.30 World Living: Film 98 with Barry Norman. 4.00 World Headlines and Weather. 4.05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the Americas. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 5.30 Hard Talk. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: The Clothes Show. 7.00 World News and Weather. 7.30 This Week. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 8.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 9.00 World Headlines and Weather. 9.05 Weekend World: Horizon. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 World Living: Top Gear. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 11.30 Hardtalk. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 Simpson's World. 1.00 World Headlines and Weather. 1.05 Weekend World: Crusades. 2.00 News. 5.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 6.30 India Business Report.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am News Briefing. 7.10 Farming Today. 7.50 Prayer for the Day. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 Today. 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.05 Sport on 4. 10.30 Breakaway. 11.00 News: Loose Ends. 12.00 News: The Week in Westminster. 12.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.00 Money Box. 1.25 Just a Minute. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 News. 2.10 Any Questions? 2.55 Shipping Forecast. 3.00 News; Any Answers? (0171) 580 4444. 3.30 Playhouse: The Beverleid Crown. 5.00 News; Mother Tongue. 5.30 Science Now. 6.00 File on 4. 6.40 Anthem. 6.50 Shipping Forecast. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.25 Week Ending. 7.50 Ad Lib. 8.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. 8.50 On These Days. 9.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Who Sings the Hero. 10.35 Classics with Kay. 10.50 Ten to Ten. 10.59 Weather. 11.00 News. 11.15 Another String: A Weaving Shed Full of Grand Pianos. 11.30 Late Night Theatre: James Herbert's The Magic Cottage. 1.00 News. 1.30 Late Story: Q. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 5.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55 Shipping Forecast.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

7.00am Newsday. 7.30 Meridian Feature. 8.00 News. 8.15 From the Weeklies. 8.30 Foul Play. 9.00 News. 9.10 Pause for Thought. 9.15 Wisdom of the World. 9.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music. 10.00 News. 10.05 World Business Review. 10.15 The Works. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Northern Lights. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 People and Politics. 1.00 News. 1.05 World Business Review. 1.15 A Jolly Good Show. 1.45 Short Story. 2.00 Newshour. 3.00 News. 3.05 Sportsworld. 4.00 News. 4.05 Sportsworld. 5.00 News. 5.15 Sportsworld. 5.30 (648 only) News in German. 6.00 News. 6.01 Weekend. 6.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 Science in Action. 8.00 News. 8.01 Westway. 8.30 What's News. 8.45 The Lab. 9.00 Newshour. 10.00 News. 10.05 World Business Review. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 Meridian Live. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Play of the Week: Chapter Two. 12.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Letter from America. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Wisdom of the World. 2.45 Sports Round-Up. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Best on Record. 4.00 News. 4.05 World Business Review. 4.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 5.00 Newsdesk. 5.30 Global Business. 6.00 Newsday. 6.30 Jazzamatazz.

The Movie Channel

● Astra

7.00 The Velvet Touch. 9.00 Project: Alf. 11.00 Tom, Dick and Harry. 1.00 In the Army Now. 3.00 The Capetown Affair. 5.00 Shall We Dance. 7.00 Project: Alf. 9.00 In the Army Now. 11.00 Preview - Mission: Impossible. 11.05 Mission: Impossible. 1.00 A Woman Scorned. 2.50 Mission: Impossible. 4.40 The Ultimate Lie. 6.10 Willy Fogg: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.

Sky Sports

● Astra

7.00 High Five. 7.30 World of Sailing. 8.00 Sports Centre. 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 Hold the Back Page. 11.00 NBA Basketball. 1.00 Sports Saturday. 6.30 Bobby Charlton's Soccer Scrapbook. 8.00 Live Spanish Football. 10.30 Live Saturday Fight Night. 12.30 Spanish Football. 2.30 Saturday Fight Night. 4.30 Futbol Mundial. 5.00 Spanish Football.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.30 Motorsport: Paris-Dakar Rally. 9.00 Swimming. 10.00 Biathlon: World Cup in Wengen, Switzerland. 11.00 Swimming. 11.30 Alpine Skiing: Women's World Cup - Live. 12.30 Alpine Skiing. 2.00 Figure Skating: European Championships - Live. 3.00 Tennis: Highlights. 3.15 Figure Skating: continued. 5.30 Biathlon: World Cup. 6.30 Ski-jumping: World Cup. 7.30 Bobsleigh: European Championship. 8.30 Swimming: World Championships. 9.00 Figure Skating. 10.30 Motorsport: Paris-Dakar Rally. 11.00 Swimming. 12.00 Tennis ATP Tournament. 1.30 Motorsport. 2.00 Close.

Sky One

● Astra

8.00 Ultraforce. 8.30 What-A-Mess. 9.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills. 9.30 Love Connection. 10.00 Wild West Cowboys of Moo Mesa. 10.30 Dally and His Friends. 11.00 Mysterious Island. 12.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. 1.00 World Wrestling Federation: Live Wire. 2.00 World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun. 3.00 Kung Fu. 4.00 Star Trek. 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 Xena: Warrior Princess. 8.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys. 9.00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer. 10.00 Cops I. 10.30 Cops II. 11.00 Law and Order. 12.00 Showbiz Weekly. 12.30 The Movie Show. 1.00 New York Undercover. 2.00 Dream On. 2.30 Revelations. 3.00 Long Play.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 The Sullivans. 10.05 Big Deal. 11.05 Neighbours. 1.05 EastEnders. 3.55 Don't Just Lie There, Say Something. 5.40 The Detectives - Short. 5.50 Bruce Forsyth and the Generation Game. 7.00 Robin's Nest. 7.30 Freddie Starr. 8.00 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum. 8.40 Keeping Up Appearances. 9.20 French and Saunders. 10.00 Bangkok Hilton. 11.45 Paul Merton: The Series. 12.20 The Jack Dee Show. 12.55 Whoops Baghdad. 1.25 The Haunted House of Horror. 3.10 Shopping.

NBC Superchannel

● Astra/Eutelsat

7.00 MSNBC News. 8.00 The McLaughlin Group. 8.30 Europa Journal. 9.00 Tech 2000. 9.30 Computer Chronicles. 10.00 Internet Cafe. 10.30 Tech 2000. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 Super Sports: 'On the Brink'. 1.00 Sports Illustrated Year in Review. 2.00 Super Sports: NHL Power Week. 3.00 Andersen World: Golf. 4.00 Five Star Adventure. 4.30 Europe a la Carte. 5.00 The Ticket. 5.30 VIP. 6.00 Classic Cousteau: Cousteau's Amazon. 7.00 National Geographic Television. 8.00 Mr Rhodes. 8.30 Union Square. 9.00 Profiler. 10.00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 11.00 Saturday Night Mystery: Mancuso FBI. 12.00 The Ticket. 12.30 VIP. 1.00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 2.00 MSNBC Internight. 3.00 VIP. 3.30 Travel Xpress. 4.00 The Ticket. 4.30 Music Legends. 5.00 Executive Lifestyles. 5.30 The Ticket. 6.00 Travel Xpress. 6.30 Inspiration.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 Saturday Stack: Bush Tucker Man. 6.30 Bush Tucker Man. 7.00 Bush Tucker Man. 7.30 Bush Tucker Man. 8.00 Bush Tucker Man. 8.30 Bush Tucker Man. 9.00 Disaster. 9.30 Wonders of Weather. 10.00 Extreme Machines. 11.00 Hitler. 12.00 Battlefields. 2.00 Mysteries of the Lamb of God. 3.00 Close.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1

8.20am Match of the Day. 9.30 Breakfast with Frost. 10.30 The Big Question. 10.45 First Light. 11.15 See Hear! 11.45 Snowy River: The McGregor Saga. 12.30 CountryFile. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 On the Record. 2.00 EastEnders. 3.25 FILM: The Sons of Katie Elder. 5.25 The Clothes Show. 5.50 Lifeline. 6.00 Antiques Roadshow. 6.45 News and Weather. 7.05 Regional News. 7.10 Songs of Praise. 7.45 Last of the Summer Wine. 8.15 FILM: Kindergarten Cop. 10.00 The Ambassador. 10.50 News and Weather. 11.05 The Unique Dave Allen. 11.35 Ruby Wax Meets. 12.05 It's Later Than You Think. 12.45 FILM: Voyage of the Damned. 3.15 Weather. 3.20 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

8.30am Children's BBC: Noddy. 8.40 Teletubbies. 9.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry. 9.45 Peter Pan and the Pirates. 10.10 The New Adventures of Black Beauty. 10.35 Prince of Atlantis. 11.00 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 11.30 Grange Hill. 11.55 The Wild House. 12.20 Short Change. 12.50 The O Zone. 1.15 The Simpsons. 2.00 Regional Programme. 2.30 FILM: Imitation of Life. 4.30 Figure Skating: European Championships. 5.35 Ski Sunday. 6.25 Animal Zone. 6.35 Watch Out Monthly. 7.10 The Natural World. 8.00 The Money Programme. 8.40 The Tunnel. 9.30 Picture This. 10.00 Friday Night Armistice. 10.30 In Sickness and in Health. 11.00 FILM: Vanishing Point. 12.40 FILM: The Devil Thumbs a Ride. 1.45 FILM: The Mummy. 2.55 Weather. 3.00 Learning Zone: Further Education: TV Genres - Health Care. 7.00 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.20 World Weather. 7.30 Salut Serge! 7.45 Bitsa. 8.00 Mortimer and Arabel. 8.15 True Tilda. 8.45 Dark Season. 9.10 Blue Peter. 9.30 Grange Hill Omnibus. 10.05 Top of the Pops. 10.30 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week. 10.55 Ready Steady Cook. 11.25 All Creatures Great and Small. 12.15 Yes, Minister. 12.45 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week. 1.15 Ready Steady Cook. 1.45 Kilroy. 2.30 Wildlife: Walk on the Wild Side. 3.00 Oliver Twist. 4.00 *Simon and the Witch. 4.15 Activ8. 4.40 Blue* Peter. 5.05 Grange Hill Omnibus. 5.40 TOTP2. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.00 Lovejoy. 8.00 999. 9.00 Shirley Bassey. 10.00 To the Manor Born. 10.30 Crossing the Floor. 11.45 Songs of Praise. 12.20 Firefighters. 12.55 World Weather. 1.00 Making Teams Work.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.30 World Living: Film 98 with Barry Norman. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 9.30 World Focus: This Week. 10.00 World Headlines and Weather. 10.05 Weekend World: Crusades. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: The Clothes Show. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 12.30 Hard Talk. 1.00 World Headlines and Weather. 1.05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the Americas. 2.00 World News and Weather. 2.30 Dateline London. 3.00 World News and Weather. 3.30 World Living: Holiday. 4.00 World Headlines and Weather. 4.05 Weekend World: Horizon. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 Hard Talk. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Top Gear. 7.00 World Headlines and Weather. 7.05 Weekend World: Crusades. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 8.30 World Focus: Simpson's World. 9.00 World Headlines and Weather. 9.05 Weekend World: Rough Guide to the Americas. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 World Focus: Earth Report. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.20 Human Rights, Human Wrongs. 11.30 Hardtalk. 12.00 World News, World Business Report and 24 Hours. 1.00 World Headlines. 1.05 USA Direct. 1.30 World Living: Top Gear. 2.00 World News, World Business Report, Asia Today and 24 Hours. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 Hard Talk. 6.30 Hard Talk.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am News Briefing. 7.10 Something Understood. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.10 Sunday Papers. 8.15 On Your Farm. 8.40 Sunday. 9.50 Dora Bryan. 9.55 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.10 Sunday Papers. 10.15 Letter from America. 10.30 Morning Service. 11.15 The Archers. 12.15 Mediumwave. 12.45 Sentimental Journey. 1.15 Desert Island Discs. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 The World This Weekend. 2.55 Shipping Forecast. 3.00 Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Classic Serial: War and Peace. 4.30 Pick of the Week. 5.15 Analysis. 6.00 News: A Wing and a Prayer. 6.30 Poetry Please! 6.50 Shipping Forecast. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Six O'Clock News. 7.15 Bon Appetit. 7.30 God on the Couch. 8.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: Ice. 8.30 Breakaway. 9.00 The National History Programme. 9.30 Mother Tongue. 10.00 A Good Read. 10.30 Costing the Earth. 10.59 Weather. 11.00 News. 11.15 Medicine Now. 11.45 In Committee. 12.15 Something Understood. 1.00 News. 1.20 Bells on Sunday. 1.30 The Late Story: The Friendship Centre. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service.

BBC World Service

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7.00am Newsday. 7.30 In Praise of God. 8.00 News. 8.15 Letter from America. 8.30 A Jolly Good Show. 9.00 News. 9.10 Pause for Thought. 9.15 Short Story. 9.30 The Greenfield Collection. 10.00 News. 10.05 Write On. 10.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Global Business. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Anything Goes. 1.00 News. 1.05 Write On. 1.15 In Praise of God. 1.30 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Newshour. 3.00 News Summary. 3.01 Catholicism in Crisis. 3.45 Letter from America. 4.00 News. 4.05 Sports Round-Up. 4.15 Concert Hall. 5.00 News. 5.15 Civilization. 5.30 (648 only) News in German. 5.45 Britain Today. 6.00 Europe Today. 6.30 Sense and Sensibilities. 6.45 Sports Round-Up. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 Play of the Week: Chapter Two. 8.30 Anything Goes. 9.00 Newshour. 10.00 News. 10.05 Write On. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 Best on Record. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Health Matters. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.05 Science View. 12.15 Artyfacts. 12.25 Pop Short. 12.30 In Praise of God. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Short Story. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 From Where I Stand. 2.45 Images of Britain. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian Feature. 4.00 News. 4.05 Write On. 4.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.30 The Works. 5.00 Newsdesk. 5.30 Europe Today. 6.00 Newsday. 6.30 Europe Today.

The Movie Channel

● Astra

7.30 Crack-Up. 9.05 Young Guns of Texas. 10.25 Peter No-Tail in America. 11.45 The War Lover. 1.30 Forever Female. 3.30 Ghost Dad. 5.00 The West Side Waltz. 7.00 Man of the House. 9.00 Muriel's Wedding. 11.00 Preview: Vampire in Brooklyn. 11.05 Vampire in Brooklyn. 12.50 The Movie Show. 1.20 The Cold Equations. 2.55 John Carpenter's In the Mouth of Madness. 4.35 China Girl.

Sky Sports

● Astra

7.00 Sports Unlimited. 8.00 World Sport Special. 8.30 Esprit. 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style. 9.30 Extreme Sport. 10.00 Boxing: Nevile Brown v Glenn Catley. 12.00 Goals on Sunday. 1.00 Rugby Union Update. 2.30 NFL American Football. 4.00 Football: Everton v Chelsea - Live. 7.30 Spanish Football - Live. 9.30 Football Special. 11.00 Football League Review. 12.30 World Windsurfing Tour. 1.00 Live World Wrestling Federation: Royal Rumble '98. 4.00 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

7.15 Swimming: World Championships - Live. 8.30 Motorsport: Dakar Rally. 9.00 Swimming. 10.15 Alpine Skiing. 2.00 Bobsleigh: European Championships - Live. 2.30 Biathlon: World Cup. 4.00 Bobsleigh. 4.45 Swimming: World Championships. 6.30 Ski-jumping: World Cup. 7.30 Bobsleigh: European Championships. 8.30 Figure Skating: European Championships. 10.30 Motor Sport: Dakar Rally. 11.00 Swimming: World Championships. 12.30 Sailing: Whitbread Round The World Race. 1.00 Motor Sport: Dakar Rally. 1.30 Close.

Sky One

● Astra

7.00 Hour of Power. 8.00 Ultraforce. 8.30 What-A-Mess. 9.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills. 9.30 Love Connection. 10.00 Wild West Cowboys of Moo Mesa. 10.30 Dally and his Friends. 11.00 Mysterious Island. 12.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. 1.00 Dream Team Omnibus. 2.00 World Wrestling Federation: Superstars. 3.00 Kung Fu. 4.00 Star Trek. 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.30 The Simpsons. 8.00 King of the Hill. 8.30 Third Rock from the Sun. 9.00 Earth: Final Conflict. 10.00 The X-Files. 11.00 The X-Files. 12.00 Forever Knight. 1.00 Jimmy's. 1.30 LAPD. 2.00 Manhunter. 3.00 Long Play.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 The Onedin Line. 8.55 Oh No! It's Selwyn Froggitt. 9.20 Room at the Bottom. 9.50 That's Showbusiness. 10.25 Worzel Gummidge Down Under. 10.55 Blake's Seven. 12.00 Dr Who Omnibus: Snakedance. 1.50 The Thirty-Nine Steps. 3.50 George and Mildred. 4.20 The Bill. 6.40 Open All Hours. 7.20 Jack of Diamonds. 8.00 The Detectives. 8.40 2 Point 4 Children. 9.20 Blackadder the Third. 10.00 Between the Lines. 11.05 The Young Ones. 11.50 Rising Damp. 12.25 The Paradise Club. 1.30 Rock Goes to College. 2.15 Survivors. 3.10 Shopping at Night.

NBC Superchannel

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.00 Hour of Power. 9.00 Home and Garden: Interiors by Design. 9.30 Home and Garden: Dream Builders. 10.00 Home and Garden: Gardening by the Yard. 10.30 Home and Garden: Company of Animals. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 Super Sports: Golf. 2.00 Gillette World Sport Special. 2.30 Inside the PGA Tour. 3.00 Super Sports: NCAA Basketball. 4.00 Time and Again. 5.00 The McLaughlin Group. 5.30 Meet the Press. 6.30 VIP. 7.00 Mr Rhodes. 7.30 Union Square. 8.00 The Ticket. 8.30 Five Star Adventure. 9.00 Super Sports: 'On the Brink'. 10.00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 11.00 Profiler. 12.00 The Ticket. 12.30 VIP. 1.00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. 2.00 MSNBC Internight. 3.00 VIP. 3.30 Europe a la Carte. 4.00 The Ticket. 4.30 Talkin' Jazz. 5.00 Five Star Adventure. 5.30 The Ticket. 6.00 VIP. 6.30 The McLaughlin Group.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 The Mosquito Story. 6.00 Avalanche. 7.00 Jurassica. 8.00 The Quest. 8.30 Ghosthunters. 9.00 The Fugitive. 10.00 DNA in the Dock. 11.00 Hunt for the Serial Arsonist. 12.00 Medical Detectives. 12.30 Medical Detectives. 1.00 Lonely Planet. 2.00 Justice Files. 3.00 Close.

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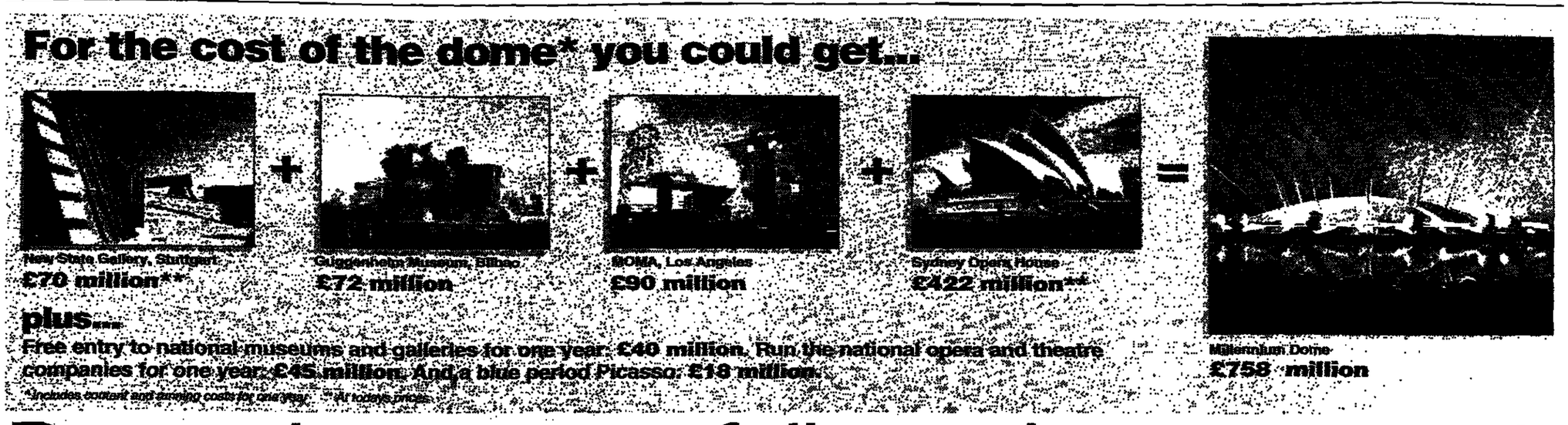


Dome rises as axe falls again on arts cash

Gowrie hits out at £1.5m cuts for theatre and ballet

Dan Glaister
Arts Correspondent

GREENWICH Theatre is a small repertory theatre run with an annual subsidy of £210,000. A mile and a half away, on a former British Gas site, a dome is rising — the glowing centrepiece of Britain's millennium celebrations.

But while the Greenwich dome will go ahead at an estimated cost of £758 million, Greenwich Theatre is expected to close at the end of March because of a cut in government funding to the arts.

As Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, justified spending four times the Arts Council's total annual funding on the Millennium Dome by comparing its unifying potential with that of the death of Princess Diana, the departing Arts Council chairman, Lord Gowrie, lambasted the Government's approach to funding the arts, calling it "niggardly and atavistic".

Mr Mandelson said: "The celebration will enable people to come together to share something, something people felt in the wake of Princess Diana's death. There are few opportunities to do this."

But Matthew Francis, artistic director of the Greenwich Theatre, said: "It cannot escape our attention that £750 million is being found from somewhere to build the dome and they cannot find £210,000 to fund us. The dome is very big, very mad and very expensive."

Lord Gowrie, who is due to step down at the end of April, said: "Politicians of all complexions keep running around saying how wonderful the arts are, and how much they want to support the creative economies. But you have to put a little bit of money where your mouth is. And even if you don't put any money in, you shouldn't take it away."

He was speaking as the Arts Council unveiled its annual grant allocation after a £1.5 million government cut. Lord Gowrie called the reduction to £184.6 million "extraordinarily damaging and foolish".

That cut, which represents 0.8 per cent of Arts Council income, has been passed on to its clients. These include the regional arts boards and companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre, the South Bank Centre, the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera.

Greenwich Theatre receives its £210,000 from the London Arts Board, which in turn receives £14,154,000 from the Arts Council. Lord Gowrie said he hoped "the chalice would not be full of poison" for his successor, Granada chief Gerry Robinson.

Although the Arts Council has tried to cushion the blow by taking £1 million from its reserve funds and cutting £500,000 from its own costs, there are casualties. Lord Gowrie described the annual allocations as "prudent not profligate".

While many companies received standstill funding, which represents a cut in real terms, the dance company Adventures In Motion Pictures lost its £140,000 subsidy. Lord Gowrie said that the company, which has achieved success with its production of Swan Lake featuring a corps de ballet of male swans, was now working on commercially backed productions. It should, he said, be a model for all small companies.

> 'To many arts bodies the lottery has represented a curse rather than a blessing'
>
> **Lord Gowrie (left) Arts Council**

The Royal Ballet lost £100,000 of its annual subsidy and will receive £6,455,000 next year. The Royal Opera was cut by £39,970 to £7,954,000. The South Bank Centre, which is still awaiting a decision on its £135 million redevelopment scheme, received a cut in its annual subsidy of £112,144. Birmingham Royal Ballet saw its annual subsidy reduced by £54,720 to £5.4 million.

Lord Gowrie said that the arrival of the National Lottery three years ago had proved a mixed blessing for the arts world.

"To many arts bodies the lottery has represented a curse rather than a blessing," he said. "The present government is not alone in having created the crisis. It was tremendously welcome to have this inflow for capital spending from the lottery, but we are now in the worst revenue crisis of my adult lifetime.

"It has been a great problem to have something so necessary and so overdue happen and to have it spoilt by so niggardly sums of money."

Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which received standstill funding, said: "I suppose that we should consider ourselves rewarded, by not getting an actual cut. Time is clearly running out, as shown by the likely closure of a number of excellent smaller venues."

Matthew Francis at the Greenwich Theatre criticised the management culture seeping into the arts.

He said: "Arts funding has fallen into the hands of consultants and bureaucrats. Arts funding is run by people who think they are good at strategy. It's rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic, it's the politics of the open lifeboat."

Lord Gowrie is to step down from the Arts Council at the end of April, a year early. One of the first tasks for the new chairman will be the appointment of a secretary general to implement the programme of reform of the organisation called for by the Government.

Leader comment, page 8

Mandelson puts his faith in a unifying edifice

Owen Bowcott and Madeleine Bunting on what will be under the Teflon canopy

THE experience will cost you around £15. Walk under the Teflon-coated, fibre-glass canopy of the Millennium Dome and the exhibitions — interspersed with restaurants and cafes — will stretch away to left and right around a central show ring.

This is a first glimpse inside the 160 ft high structure which Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, believes should unite people in the way the nation was united by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

His ambitious plans for national renewal and spiritual reflection are revealed, along with a preliminary architectural outline of what will actually be inside the £758 million scheme being erected on industrial wasteland at Greenwich.

New features being finalised include a cable car ride over the Thames from Canning Town and re-landscaped water defences, incorporating a beach for picnics and spawning grounds for sea bass and dover sole.

With controversy focusing on the place of Christianity within the dome, Mr Mandelson spelled out in an interview with the Guardian what he saw as the spiritual significance of the millennium.

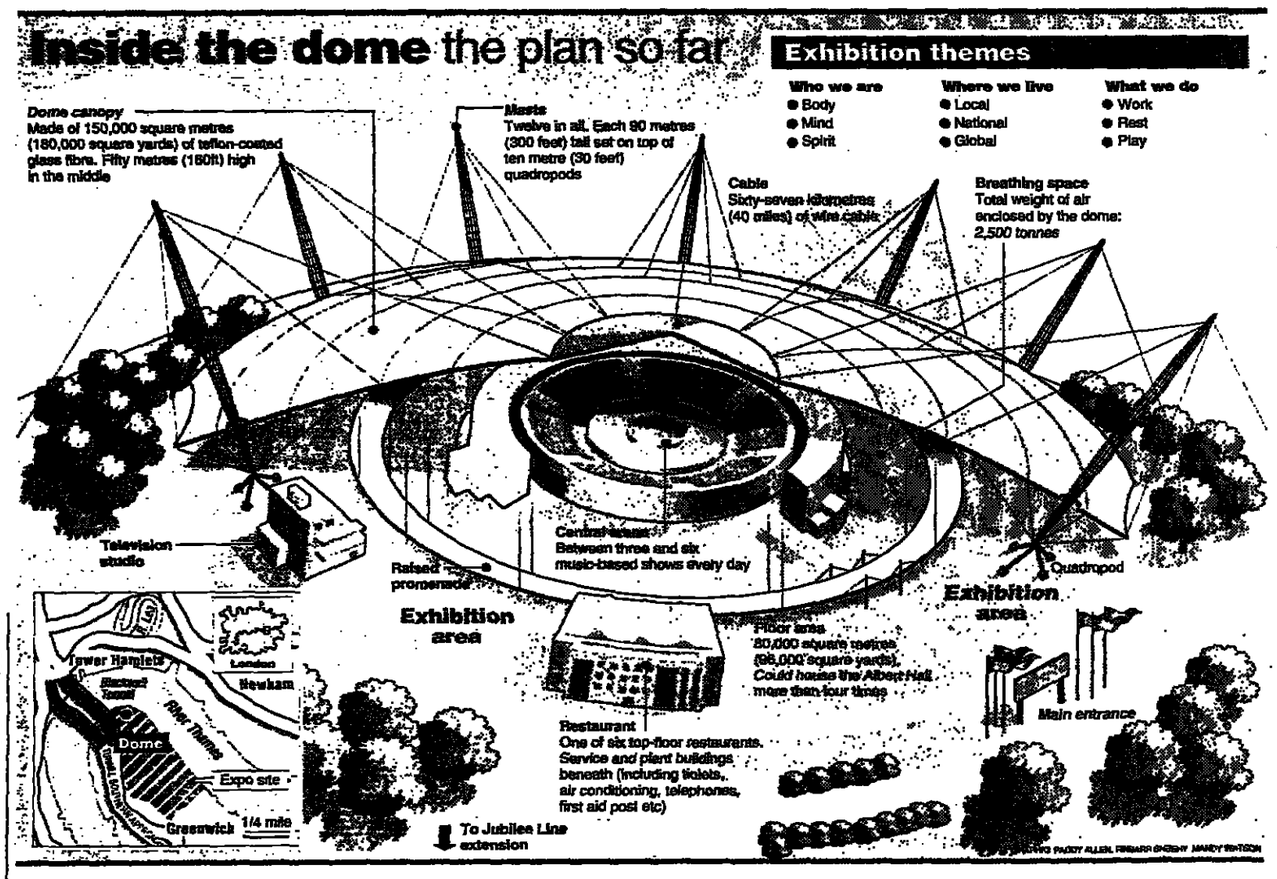
Referring to a survey by the developers, he said: "People thought this was a really special event, to pass from one millennium to the next; an exciting thing in people's lives. And they thought it should be marked properly.

"People feel atomised, fragmented and set apart from one another. They feel that the community spirit of the country has gone, diminished in recent years. The celebration will enable people to come together to share something; something people felt in the wake of Princess' Diana's death ... I'm not suggesting the dome will start us on a more upward course — but it might help."

Most of the exhibits being prepared for the New Millennium Experience Company are still at a conceptual stage. Indeed, so little has previously been revealed that the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee last month described the project, intended to attract 12 million visitors during the year 2000, as "not so much a journey through time, as ... a journey into the unknown".

Mr Mandelson conceded that the creative process was "by no means completed" and that fixing the contents had been his highest priority in the last six months.

"You don't show the rushes of your film before its final edit to the critics because they are going to ... pick holes in something which is not completed," he added.



Mandelson's Dome thoughts

August 1997, on Clare Short criticising the dome: 'She is not rocking the boat. Her comments were made before the election. The government has changed, the project has changed, and the whole cabinet is now fully supportive of the project, which is going to be a tremendous success'

December 1997: 'The contents of the Millennium Experience will attract people of all ages, although I expect that playing surfball, the 21st century sport, will have an especial appeal to young people'

January 1998: 'The Millennium is a Christian anniversary but it is also a secular, national event'

Herbert Morrison, Peter Mandelson's grandfather, who was the driving force behind the 1951 Festival of Britain: 'This is the sort of madness which has put us on the map and is going to keep us there'

"All you will be doing is sparking off questions you are not in a position to answer."

Another area of concern has been sponsorship, which has been sub-contracted to Mark McCormack's International Management Group. Promises of £120 million are said to have been collected — only £30 million short of the sum required. There are currently negotiations with supermarket chains and a car manufacturer.

No firm has, however, yet signed the deal. Companies want to see whether the contents justify their multi-million pound investments. The publicity launch of the dome's exhibitions — on which confidence in its future now depends — is due before the end of March.

Tickets for the site will be sold mainly as part of rail, tube, bus or riverboat travel packages.

Six service buildings, each three stories high, will be built under the canopy, to house restaurants, toilets, machinery, changing rooms and a television studio. The outer circle of the dome will contain the nine main exhibition areas. Each is based on the abstract outlines devised last year: Who We Are — subdivided into sections on mind, body and spirit; Where We Live — local, national and global; and What We Do — divided into work, rest and play.

The "Body" section is being designed by the communications company HP:ICM, which proposed building a 75 ft high model of the human body — without genitalia — for people to walk through.

There will be a theme park-style ride through the "Rest" exhibition. The "Play" section, being assembled by the Land design consultancy, will incorporate something called the Tower of Serious Play, in which visitors will move on conveyor belts past interactive holograms.

"Work", created by the exhibition firm Park Avenue, will include a Valley of the Ladders — symbolising career paths for the future, in which visitors can apply for jobs which might appear in the 21st century.

The one acre "Spirit" exhibition, which is designed by the architects Eva Jiricna Associates, is likely to be dedicated to common concerns of all faiths: peace, tolerance, love and care of children, as well as how to form societies to care for the underprivileged, according to Canon Colin Fletcher, of the Lambeth Group of church representatives and members of other faiths which is advising the New Millennium Experience Company.

Besides a chapel for Christian worship, there will also be a "space" for reflection and prayer for non-Christians. The wish list produced last July by the group Values for Greenwich urged inclusion of the Gregorian calendar, dating from Christ's death, and a life of Christ.

Mr Mandelson's explanation of the spiritual dimension of the project came after an editorial in the Church Times urged churches to pull out of the project over fears that Christian beliefs will be reduced to a leisure pursuit.

"Spiritual renewal is to do with the soul, it's an emotional lift to the spirits, raising them above the ordinary, the mundane, the material, the earthly. It's about people being at ease with themselves," he said, adding that controversy over the Dome's religious content of is was opening up interesting issues.

Care is being taken to ensure that other faiths do not feel marginalised. There may be celebrations of the Muslim festival of Eid and the Hindu New Year, Diwali, in addition to a Christian service at Pentecost. Non-Christian calendars may also be explored.

No creative director will be appointed to replace Stephen Bayley, who resigned last week. Instead a "Litmus" group, chaired by Michael Grade and including the film director David Putnam and the television executive Alan Yentob, will review ideas.

The New Millennium Experience Company is already considering proposals for the dome's use after 2000. It could become a sports centre.

With specialist news, profiles and the latest developments, read the Media pages

Michael Golightly arriving with his wife yesterday at Newcastle crown court, where he was found guilty of causing her grievous bodily harm with intent PHOTOGRAPH: OWEN HUMPHREYS

Vicar gets five years for attack on wife

Stuart Millar

A CHURCH of England vicar was jailed for five years yesterday for an apparently motiveless hammer attack on his wife which fractured her skull.

The Rev Michael Golightly, aged 54, was cleared of attempted murder at Newcastle crown court but found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to his wife, Enid, aged 55.

Mrs Golightly, who stood by her husband throughout the trial, broke down as Mr Justice Sedley said he had to impose the minimum sentence. "Five years!" she screamed, before she was helped from the court. "It will kill his poor mother. What am I going to do? I have to have him to live with."

She refused to comment as she left with her daughter, Louise. The vicar's daughter, Ruth, by an earlier marriage also refused to comment.

Golightly was accused of attempting to kill his wife with a blow from a 1½lb hammer while she was sleeping at the couple's home in Durham in August 1996. Fragments of bone were pushed 30mm into her brain. She is unlikely to recover fully.

He claimed that he had found his wife lying naked in a pool of blood at the bottom of the stairs.

She told the court that she loved her husband and trusted him. When Golightly's bail conditions meant the couple could not see each other, it was she who petitioned the courts so that they could live together again.

Giving evidence for the defence, Mrs Golightly told the jury: "I know he would not do anything like this to me."

The clergyman also told the court of the couple's "blissfully happy" marriage. "I love her, I adore her, I wouldn't even raise my little finger to hurt her in any way."

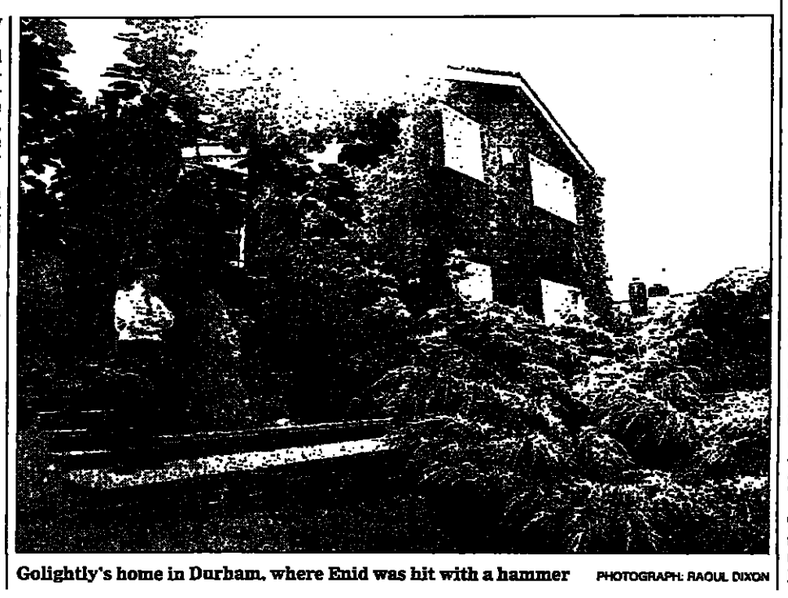
But the prosecution claimed that in this "extraordinary case" Golightly had attacked his wife without any apparent reason.

Sentencing, the judge told Golightly he had been convicted on compelling evidence. "No possible motive has been found for this act, which comes in middle age after a lifetime of exemplary service to others."

Police Sergeant Graeme Chisholm said: "The amount of blood on the bedclothes was horrific. Vicar or not, he had to be arrested."

The Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Rev Alan Smithson, said: "We are deeply concerned about this whole incident. It is a sad case with many unanswered questions. The Church deeply regrets one of its clergy being in this situation."

He added: "He was quite calm and resolute, quite incredulous that this could have been the verdict. He told me: 'How could they ever think I could ever hurt Enid?' This hasn't changed my opinion of him: he remains a good friend and Christian."



Golightly's home in Durham, where Enid was hit with a hammer PHOTOGRAPH: RAOUL DIXON

News in brief

Hamilton starts C4 libel action

NEIL HAMILTON, the disgraced former Tory minister, has issued a writ claiming damages for libel from Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, Channel 4 Television and Fulcrum Productions for a Dispatches programme broadcast on January 16 last year. Fulcrum is an independent production company which made the programme, A Question of Sleaze, after Mr Hamilton's libel action against the Guardian collapsed in October 1996.

Under the new Defamation Act plaintiffs have to start an action within one year of the alleged libel. They are then allowed four months to serve the writs. Yesterday none of the three prospective defendants had received the three-page document which was lodged in the High Court on January 9 by the London solicitors Crockers Oswald Hickson.

Channel 4 said last night: "We stand by our story." Michael Cole, spokesman for Mr Al Fayed, said: "It's all very puzzling." — *David Pallister*

£1.5m mugging: three held

THREE men were arrested yesterday by police investigating the theft of £1.5 million of jewellery from a tourist who was mugged on a visit to London.

The woman, in her late 20s, was knocked to the ground and robbed early on January 6 as she and her husband returned to their holiday address after visiting a cinema and kebab shop.

Three men pounced on them in Bayswater, west London. One held a knife to the man's throat, while the others stole the jewellery. The couple were not named by police, but have been identified in newspapers as Datin Melleney, a South African, and her billionaire Malaysian banker husband, Dato Samsudin Abu Hassan.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that three men in their early 20s were arrested in Chiswick, west London and were in custody at Harrow Road police station.

'Nanny case' licensee cleared

THE landlady of the pub which became the focal point of the "Free Louise Woodward Campaign" was cleared by Chester magistrates yesterday of allowing after-hours drinking. Police accused Julie Smith, aged 40, after visiting The Rigger pub in Elton at around midnight on May 31. But Robin Boag, defending, criticised the officers for failing to test for alcohol and said there was no sufficient evidence for conviction.

Chris Evans sacks rival

AWARD-winning Virgin Radio presenter Jonothan Coleman has been sacked by former rival and new boss Chris Evans. The announcement was made while Coleman was in his native Australia with his sick mother.

His Russ'n'Jono show partner Russell Williams is staying on at the station, bought by Evans for £85 million late last year. "The show had run its course and Jonothan is moving on," a Virgin Radio spokesman said yesterday.

When Russ'n'Jono were Evans' main breakfast rivals during his spell at Radio 1, Jono missed no opportunity to taunt his rival.

Steel blast victim critical

FIVE men were injured, one critically, when a "blow back" showered a group of contractors with molten metal at the Llanwern steel works in south Wales.

A British Steel spokesman said an inquiry had begun into how the accident — involving an overhead crane pouring molten iron into a crucible — happened. Production of steel was halted for a time after the accident.

Scalextric inventor buried

THE inventor of Scalextric, Fred Francis, who died aged 79 more than 40 years after coming up with the idea for the ever-popular Grand Prix racing toy, was yesterday buried near his home at Birdham, near Chichester.

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Turkey bans Islamist party

Chris Morris in Ankara

THE largest party in the Turkish parliament, the pro-Islamist Welfare Party, was shut down yesterday by a sweeping judgment from the country's highest court. It said Welfare had violated constitutional obligations to respect Turkey's strict secular principles.

In a decision which will have far-reaching implications for Turkish politics, the court seized the party's assets and banned its leaders from political activity for five years. "We decided to close the Welfare Party because of its actions against the principles of the secular republic," the chief justice of the constitutional court, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, said.

Political parties have been shut down numerous times in the recent past, but never one with such broad support. Most of Welfare's 150 MPs will now have to hold their seats as independents, while some MPs have been dismissed by the court.

The veteran party leader, Necmettin Erbakan, said he would take his case to the European Court of Human Rights and was confident of victory. "Whenever they put obstacles in our path, our support only increases," he said.

Welfare's leaders know that appeals to international opinion will embarrass the Turkish authorities, and that the constitutional court's ruling will hardly ease Turkey's strained relations with the European Union.

Britain, which currently holds the EU presidency, issued a statement which acknowledged that the court had acted in conformity with the Turkish constitution but voiced serious concern about the implications for democratic pluralism and freedom of expression.

'Whenever they put obstacles in our path, our support increases'

Western diplomats believe Turkey needs to reform its constitution, which was introduced after a military coup in 1980. "This is bound to focus attention on the parts of the constitution we have problems with," one source said.

The Welfare Party led Turkey's first pro-Islamist government for nearly a year, until pressure from the military establishment forced it out of power last summer.

While in office, the party implemented mild Islamic reforms, such as allowing women to wear headscarves in government offices. The secular elite, however, was convinced that Welfare had a radical hidden agenda, and it waged a systematic campaign against the party.

Both sides submitted mountains of evidence last year to the panel of 11 judges, who took their time to issue one of the most sensitive judgments they have ever been asked to make. Turkey's chief prosecutor argued that Welfare was trying to promote Islamic fundamentalism, while the party said it merely wanted people to be able to practise their religion freely.

"This is a bad decision for Turkey," Ahmet Tascetin, a pro-Islamist columnist, said. "It's not democratic and it is bound to cause trouble." Concern has been expressed about the possibility of a violent backlash, but Mr Erbakan urged his supporters to remain calm.

With more than 4 million members and a formidable grassroots organisation, Welfare's support will not simply disappear. What is unclear is whether those who feel disenfranchised will turn to a more radical form of Islamic politics.

Some former members have already formed a new grouping, the Virtue Party, but there have been reports of differences of opinion between the old guard and a younger generation of leaders.

The Welfare Party's opponents certainly hope it will now split into competing factions, a common habit in Turkish politics. Welfare only won 21 per cent of the vote at the last election, but bitter disputes between the main secular parties led to the creation of the first pro-Islamist government in modern Turkey's 75-year history.

Angry jobless deepen Jospin crisis

Paul Webster in Paris

A NATIONAL march today by increasingly militant jobseekers will deepen a crisis over France's Socialist-led government's economic and social policies that now directly threatens the prime minister, Lionel Jospin.

Thousands of unemployed protesters will march through 90 cities to demand more benefits that would cost the government £2.5 billion. Most protesters will be long-term unemployed who live on less than £400 a month.

Mr Jospin will go on television next week in an attempt to end a protest which threatens an anti-inflation programme intended to ensure France's entry into the European single currency. He will appeal for public backing for a 35-hour week, which is being menaced by a clash with employers who believe a shorter working week will destroy jobs rather than create them.

Opinion polls yesterday showed 70 per cent public support for the protesters, after a month of unrest. The survey coincided with a sharp drop in Mr Jospin's popularity. After receiving more than 65 per cent public support in earlier surveys, he is backed by only 51 per cent of the electorate, according to Le Point magazine.

The slide reflects a loss of confidence in Mr Jospin's ability to settle social disputes which have seen the unemployed occupying benefit centres and public buildings. The latest targets included two of Paris's best known academies, the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Political Science Institute.

An outburst in parliament by Mr Jospin earlier this week, in which he accused the right of anti-Semitism and of supporting slavery during the 19th century, is being seen as a sign of serious fatigue after seven difficult months in office. Apart from a cabinet split over the jobseekers' march, in which Communist, Green and even some Socialist ministers have encouraged the protesters, Mr Jospin has had to deal with a number of minor revolts in his coalition.

His election programme has fallen far short of its promises. Budget cuts to meet the single currency deadline have upset timetables on job creation and improving the benefits system. The 3.1 million unemployment rate, equivalent to 12.5 per cent of the workforce, has remained steady since June, while the protest over welfare has coincided with a study showing that payments to the poor have fallen sharply in real terms since 1983.

Join the sponsored walk across London's bridges in support of the National Kidney Research Fund on Sunday May 10, 1998

The Bronze Age mummy nicknamed Oetzi (above) was returned to Italy yesterday, where he was taken to the archaeology museum in Bolzano (left)

Iceman Oetzi goes to Italy for exhibition

ACCOMPANIED by police cars and an interior ministry helicopter, the more than 5,300-year-old mummy recovered from an Alpine glacier travelled from Innsbruck to Bolzano in northern Italy yesterday in a refrigerated truck.

The dead man, whom Austrians nicknamed Oetzi after the Oetztaler Alps where he was found in September 1991, is the oldest and best-preserved frozen mummy in the world. He was discovered in a glacier, surrounded by tools including a copper axe and stone dagger. Scientists using C-14 analyses determined that the corpse had lain in the ice for more than 5,300 years.

The Bronze Age hunter was placed in a specially refrigerated cell at the archaeology museum in Bolzano, Italy, where he will be on display from March 28.

Another room will display his tools and other artifacts.

An underground group in western Austria calling itself the Battle Group One Tirol — for the Tyrolian area split between Austria and Italy — had threatened to try to block the transfer to Bolzano, according to media reports. — *AP.*

EU seeks bigger role in Middle East peace

Martin Walker in Brussels

THE European Commission yesterday threatened to withhold economic aid unless Israel stopped blockading the Palestinian economy. It also demanded a full place for itself alongside the United States at the negotiating table in an attempt to revitalise the stalled Middle East peace process.

As the supplier of 54 per cent of aid funding to Palestine since the Washington donors conference in 1993, the EU's decision to brandish its economic weapon is a challenge to Israel and the US. It is likely to buttress Israeli claims that the EU is partial to the Arab side. The EU has contributed $1.5 billion ($900 million) to the Palestinians compared to $380 million from the US.

The EU said it wanted "both at ministerial level and through its special envoy to participate alongside the US in all fora set up to assist bilateral negotiations between the parties".

The EU also demanded that it head the international economic effort supporting the peace process. It argued that because it had "more experience, wider links and a considerable political capital ... the basic shareholder must be the key co-ordinator".

This represents the most ambitious EU initiative on the world scene since its disastrous attempt to resolve the Balkan crisis in 1991 under the banner of the claim by France that "the hour of Europe is at hand".

But relations with Israel and the Middle East are so important to US interests that Brussels's bid for a big international role could risk trouble with Washington. It also puts Britain in an awkward position as current holder of the EU presidency.

The demand will buttress Israeli claims that the EU favours the Arabs

Fresh from his trip to Washington, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, will have to handle the commission proposal carefully at the EU foreign ministers' meeting in a week's time. Most EU members are likely to back the proposal and so is the European Parliament.

The proposal was launched yesterday by the EU Commission vice-president, Manuel Marin of Spain, who also oversees EU policy on Mediterranean countries. Openly impatient of the EU's subordination to the US in the Middle East peace process, he said the failure of the Israeli-Palestinian talks was "contaminating" the EU's other aims in the region and undermining its Mediterranean agreements and policy dialogue with North African countries.

Mr Marin also claimed EU efforts to develop the Palestine economy had been so frustrated by failures to reach a political settlement and by Israeli security measures that "all Palestinian economic indicators point to a clear deterioration of living standards, with per capita GDP down by over one-third". The result was "widespread international donor fatigue".

The Commission proposed a series of conditions before the EU continued its aid programme, due to end later this year. One is for an end to security measures by Israel to seal off Palestinian territories, along with a demand that "the Palestinians must have open trade access to the outside world including Israel".

The Commission said: "Contrary to claims that Israel's security demands stiff restrictions on the Palestinian economy, Palestian economic development will be Israel's best security guarantee, both in the long and short term."

European beef import ban stays

Stephen Bates in Brussels

A BAN on importing beef treated with growth hormones into the European Union will continue, officials in Brussels said yesterday, despite an adjudication from the World Trade Organisation that the ban was inconsistent with the EU's international trading obligations.

The EU's trade dispute is principally with the United States but Canada and Australia are also affected. The outcome left both sides claiming victory.

Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, said: "It is a clear and unequivocal win."

A senior European Commission official said: "The WTO has accepted our substantive arguments and the bottom line is that the beef will not come in."

The dispute has been among the most heated in a series of rows between US producers and Europe which has included the trade in bananas, gelatine and genetically modified cereals. In most of the cases the WTO has sided with the US.

US administration officials say the WTO ruling means the EU must lift its eight-year ban on the import of beef from hormone-treated animals.

Growth hormones, intended to fatten cattle rapidly, have been officially banned in the EU since 1989, although a flourishing black market in substances such as clenbuterol — "angel dust" — is known to exist on farms in Belgium and Ireland.

There is strong pressure from European consumer organisations to prevent imports, and customer suspicions have been reflected in steeply declining beef sales, even before last year's BSE crisis.

US cattle producers believe they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of exports since the ban was imposed.

The WTO panel in Geneva ruled that the EU had not proved its case that there was a health risk from the beef but gave it another 15 months to produce scientific evidence related specifically to hazards caused by hormones in the meat.

The EU, it said, had the right to establish the appropriate level of consumer protection, even if it was higher than prevailing international standards.

The WTO also said the policy was not inconsistent just because the EU did not ban the import of other potentially damaging commodities.

World news in brief

Tobacco companies pay $15bn to Texas

THE United States tobacco industry settled its largest ever legal action yesterday when eight companies agreed to pay $15 billion (£9.4 billion) to the state of Texas in return for dropping a case which was due in court in Austin yesterday.

The companies will pay the amount over 25 years, reimbursing Texas for costs incurred in treating smoking-related illnesses. The deal includes millions of dollars to finance anti-smoking programmes and restrictions on advertising.

Forty states have sued the tobacco industry. Florida and Mississippi have also reached out-of-court settlements, for smaller sums, and a case involving Minnesota is due in court next week. The tobacco industry is also trying to negotiate a national settlement in return for protection from future smoking-related lawsuits. — *Martin Kettle, Washington.*

Blow for Russian reformers

REASSERTING his authority, Russia's prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, took back responsibility for key areas of government policy from two embattled young economic reformers yesterday. The move was another blow to Boris Nemtsov and Anatoly Chubais, who have faced heavy bureaucratic opposition and a damaging corruption scandal. Mr Nemtsov lost control of the fuel and energy sector and Mr Chubais control of the finance ministry and state-owned media. — *AP, Moscow.*

Serbs attack UN escort

A SERB crowd attacked United Nations police and international fact-finders trying to enter Srebrenica yesterday, beating a policeman and damaging a vehicle, UN spokesmen said. Members of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and a UN police escort had been with Muslim politicians for the first meeting of a municipal assembly elected in September. Although Serbs overran the enclave in July 1995, voting by refugees secured a Muslim victory. — *AP, Tuzla.*

Pope hints at Israel visit

THE Pope said yesterday that he saw a visit to the Holy Land "on his horizon", Israel's deputy prime minister, Moshe Katzav, said after an audience. "Whether that means one year or two years, we don't know," he said. The Pope has expressed a desire to visit Israel before 2000. — *Reuters, Vatican City.*

India suffers blood shortage

A BAN last month in India on selling blood has led to a big shortage in hospitals, a blood bank official said yesterday. Newspapers have reported a number of patients dying because blood transfusions could not be performed. The ruling followed reports that people who sold blood were more likely to carry the Aids virus than volunteers. — *AP, New Delhi.*

Trial for Fiat chairman

A JUDGE yesterday ordered Fiat's chairman, Cesare Romiti, to stand trial on corruption charges, the Italian news agency Ansa reported. Prosecutors believe he knew of alleged payoffs to win contracts for work on the Rome subway when he was chief executive, Ansa said. The case was temporarily dropped two years ago, but prosecutors reopened it after new testimony in a related trial. — *AP, Rome.*

Another Gandhi enters fray

TUSHAR Gandhi, great-grandson of the revered Mahatma, plunged into politics yesterday, saying he would contest India's forthcoming elections on a regional party ticket. He said the country faced a renewed threat from religious fundamentalism. The Samajwadi party, a constituent of the ousted United Front ruling coalition, said he would be the party's candidate for a constituency in Bombay. — *Reuters, Lucknow.*

Greeks march on US embassy

HUNDREDS of Greek Communist Party supporters marched on the US embassy in Athens yesterday to protest against remarks by Washington's new ambassador to Greece, Nicholas Burns. The protesters, waving red hammer-and-sickle flags, chanted "Out with the Americans" and "Down with capitalism". In a speech on Wednesday, Mr Burns praised his country for supporting government forces against the communists in the Greek civil war and for keeping Greece in the Western bloc. — *Reuters, Athens.*

Bad hair day for holy cow

HOPES that a red heifer named Melody would be the key to Jewish salvation were dashed yesterday after the cow's owner said white hairs had been spotted on her tail. Melody became famous in May after Shmaria Shore, a rabbi in northern Israel, revealed the cow might be the first pure red heifer born in the Holy Land in 2,000 years. — *AP, Jerusalem.*

Home run for war veterans

American and Vietnamese war veterans ride down a road in Vaung Tau, north-east of Ho Chi Minh City, on the final leg of a trans-Vietnam trip yesterday. The friendship ride began on New Year's Day PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD VOGEL

Judge turns tables on landlord

A NEW YORK landlord who failed to provide her tenants with hot water and heating and left them with only partial electricity has been sentenced to 60 nights in one of her own neglected flats. "She should have a taste of her own medicine," said Judge JoAnn Friia, who said the film The Super, in which an unscrupulous landlord is forced to live in his own building, may have inspired her.

Tenants said they complained to Florence Nyemitei about blocked toilets, faulty fire extinguishers and poor heating for four years but she failed to repair them. Ms Nyemitei, who was fined $10,000 (£6,000), is required to spend four nights a week, between 8pm and 6am, at the flat. — *Joanna Coles, New York.*

"She normalised female power. She made us realise that women can do the things that men once thought were all their own."
Margaret Thatcher: feminist icon?

The Week page 16

India aims coup de grâce at polio

Children in the Okhla slum quarter of New Delhi receive an oral vaccine as the climax of a three-year campaign which the World Health Organisation predicts will wipe out a disease that has hit 25 million Indians in the past quarter-century

337 million children have been vaccinated in three years. Children are especially vulnerable to the illness, transmitted by human excrement, in the hot, congested conditions of the subcontinent

Photographs by Roger Hutchings

Inkatha papers held by truth commission could destroy Buthelezi–ANC coalition

Files threaten SA crisis

David Beresford in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA'S truth commission, already engaged in a showdown with the former president P. W. Botha, is braced for what could be an even more explosive confrontation with Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Documents fed to the commission by a former confidant of Chief Buthelezi has put it under pressure to subpoena the Zulu leader for questioning about his alleged collaboration with the apartheid security forces and involvement in the creation of assassination squads. But he may follow Mr Botha's example and refuse to testify.

Mr Botha is due in court next week on criminal charges for refusing to obey a commission subpoena. The humiliation for the man who once ruled South Africa with an iron rod was compounded by the disclosure yesterday that a black magistrate will hear his case.

While there is some nervousness about rightwing reaction to Mr Botha's prosecution, his case is likely to be overshadowed by any attempt to conduct hearings into Chief Buthelezi, which could lead to a political crisis for the African National Congress government.

It is believed the commission wants to question Chief Buthelezi on the "Felgate archives" — papers handed to it by a senior figure in the chief's Inkatha Freedom Party, Walter Felgate, who defected to the ANC last year.

Mr Felgate, a social anthropologist, was long seen as Chief Buthelezi's most trusted adviser and Inkatha's *eminence grise*. When he joined the ANC last August Chief Buthelezi accused him of stealing documents from the party. Mr Felgate insisted the documents he removed were his own.

Although the content of the files is unknown, they may help answer questions about Chief Buthelezi's role in the anti-apartheid struggle.

He set up Inkatha with the encouragement of the then banned ANC in the early 1970s. But after he fell out with the then president of the liberation movement, Oliver Tambo, in 1979 the two sides became bitter foes. There has been evidence that Chief Buthelezi took money from the security forces and played a role in the training of Zulu "hit squads" by South African military intelligence in the 1980s. There have also been claims of links between Inkatha and the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The truth commission's chief investigator, Dumisa Ntsebeza, said this week that the deputy chairman, Alex Boraine, had sent a list of questions to Chief Buthelezi and had received a lengthy reply which was "argumentative" rather than illuminating.

The commission, chaired by Bishop Desmond Tutu, must decide whether to take on the chief when the ANC leadership is trying to negotiate a merger or alliance with Inkatha. President Nelson Mandela indicated recently that Chief Buthelezi, who is minister of home affairs and has occasionally stood in as acting president, could become deputy president if he joined forces with the ANC. Proposals have been floated in the ANC hierarchy for a "blanket amnesty" for Kwa-Zulu-Natal as part of a peace deal. But the ANC leadership appears out of step with party members in the province, who remain deeply hostile to Inkatha and its leader.

● Angolan radio said yesterday that 103 "mercenaries" employed by the British security company Defence Systems Limited had been ordered out of the country. The security personnel have been guarding embassies and private companies. The expulsion followed complaints that their presence was undermining the 1994 peace treaty between the Luanda government and Unita.

Tutu is under pressure to question the chief about alleged collaboration with apartheid security forces

Montserrat chief attacks Britain for spurring exodus

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN yesterday rejected renewed complaints that it is planning to evacuate the volcano-stricken island of Montserrat and insisted it was committed to its long-term future.

David Brandt, Montserrat's chief minister, angrily accused Britain of encouraging islanders to abandon their homes because of the long-term threat posed by the Soufriere Hills volcano.

Montserrat, one of Britain's 13 remaining dependent territories, has lost two-thirds of its population since the volcano roared to life in July 1995, forcing the evacuation of the south of the island, including its capital, Plymouth.

Mr Brandt, who has criticised Britain repeatedly in recent months, seemed to be raising the political temperature deliberately before a visit by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, next month.

"There is no delay when it comes to depopulation of the island, but when it comes to providing basic needs for the people, there are all kinds of delays," he said.

Of the colony's 11,000 people, only 3,500 remain on the island, most having moved to Britain or neighbouring Caribbean islands. Montserrat's economy, dependent on tourism and rice processing, has collapsed.

Britain has promised to build new houses in the north, but only 50 homes have been completed.

"Two-thirds of the island is gone and most of the people are cramped in private homes," Mr Brandt said. "I feel very embarrassed to visit people in shelters who have been living in deplorable conditions for two and a half years."

"All I am asking is for the British to follow through on their promises. They won't show their commitment."

Tempers flared last summer when the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, accused the islanders of demanding "golden elephants".

The Foreign Office said in a statement: "The British Government remains absolutely committed to the future of all Montserratians, whether they choose to leave or stay, so long as that is safe. There is no hidden agenda to depopulate the island. Our aid to Montserrat is directed precisely at enabling those who want to stay to do so."

Mr Brandt's comments came a day after Ms Short announced a cash injection for improved medical service and accommodation for elderly people who have had to leave their homes. A total of £49.3 million has been committed since the crisis began.

Media circus expected at pre-trial questioning

Humiliated Clinton faces sex accuser

Martin Kettle in Washington

IN WHAT is easily the most personally demeaning moment of his presidency so far, Bill Clinton will this morning face his accuser Paula Jones and give videotaped evidence under oath behind closed doors about his past sexual history.

Barring a last-minute settlement in the sexual harassment case brought by Ms Jones, Mr Clinton will be driven to his lawyer's office in Washington shortly before 10am to face wide-range questioning which could last for up to three hours.

To add to his embarrassment, Ms Jones plans to sit across the table from the president and "stare into his eyes", one of her advisers said.

She alleges that on May 8 1991, when he was governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee, Mr Clinton called her to a hotel room in Little Rock, where he dropped his trousers and asked her for oral sex.

When she refused, she claims he told her to keep quiet about the incident and then had her demoted. Mr Clinton denies the charges and says he has no recollection of ever having met her.

Today's questioning is part of a normal pre-trial civil process in which witnesses for both sides give evidence under oath before the case comes to court.

Ms Jones gave sworn testimony in Arkansas in November, but Mr Clinton asked to be deposed in Washington. Jury selection for the case is set to begin in Little Rock on May 27.

All the witnesses are subject to a court order not to reveal details of the evidence in the case, but that will not prevent today's hearing from becoming a media circus.

Mr Clinton is expected to be driven under guard in his presidential limousine into the basement of his lawyer's office in New York Avenue, only a short distance from the White House, and is not expected to make any public statement.

Ms Jones, on the other hand, is likely to exploit every opportunity to parade for the assembled media, even though she, too, is forbidden to speak about details.

Ms Jones who has had a thorough make-up and fashion makeover for the occasion, is certain to be accompanied by her egregious "adviser", Susan Carpenter McMillan, who has said she will "accommodate the media" during the question-and-answer session. Ms McMillan will not be allowed to attend the deposition but can be relied upon to play a full part in the media proceedings.

Paula Jones: Plans to sit and stare into president's eyes

Today's questioning will take place in the offices of Skadden Arps, the Washington law firm in which Mr Clinton's attorney, Bob Bennett, is a senior partner. The only people present will be Mr Clinton, Ms Jones, their legal teams, a court stenographer and a technical team.

Ms Jones will be represented by six lawyers, of whom one, James Rader, is expected to ask most of the questions. The presiding judge in the case, Judge Susan Wright, will monitor the case over the telephone and may question the president, too.

Mr Clinton must expect to be questioned about the events of May 8 1991, as well as about what Ms Jones has alleged are the "distinguishing characteristics" of his genitals.

In addition, and in an attempt to portray the president as an incorrigible womaniser, Ms Jones's lawyers will ask about Mr Clinton's past sexual history, a subject on which they have been trying to solicit allegations for months.

Mr Bennett is certain to attempt to limit the questioning, which he has repeatedly argued is designed to harass and embarrass Mr Clinton for political reasons rather than to serve a legal purpose.

Ms Jones's lawyers have already questioned Gennifer Flowers, Mr Clinton's long-time former mistress, and Dolly Kyle Browning, a former schoolmate of the president who has written a book in which she claims to document a 33-year relationship with Mr Clinton.

In addition, evidence has been taken from state troopers who Ms Jones alleges acted as Mr Clinton's agents in arranging sexual trysts.

Once the president gets through today's session, he intends to take no further direct part in the Jones case. Having given his evidence, he cannot be compelled to testify in court.

One of his aides said this week: "With the deposition, the president knows he will never again testify on this."

Row over film's content

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE British film maker Nick Broomfield's unflattering documentary on singer Courtney Love and her late husband, Kurt Cobain, has been withdrawn from a film festival in a row about its content.

Officials of Robert Redford's Sundance festival in Utah removed the film, Kurt and Courtney, two days before it was to be shown. Lawyers for the singer-turned-actress said Mr Broomfield had not cleared the rights to use songs by Nirvana, the late "grunge" singer's former band, and Ms Love's group, Hole.

But the film maker, whose documentary Heidi Fleiss: Hollywood Madam was praised after it was premiered at Sundance, argued he was being silenced by forces in Hollywood backing Ms Love's career as a serious actress.

The film portrays the couple's stormy, drug-riddled life and Cobain's suicide in 1994. Mr Broomfield interviews Ms Love's estranged father and a singer from the underground music scene who claims to have been offered money to murder Cobain.

The disputed songs in the film were from BBC footage and were cleared, Mr Broomfield claimed. He nevertheless offered to remove the offending music. But Sundance officials would not change their minds.

"This is a very sad statement about freedom of speech in the States today," Mr Broomfield said.

He added: "I'm not surprised about what has happened. It's a continuation of what the film is about: how someone with a great deal of money can throw their weight around."

Mr Broomfield has been accused of using the dispute to generate publicity for his film at the crucial period of its launching.

'Dirty war' defender held

Phil Gunson, Latin America Correspondent

ONE of the most notorious villains of Argentina's "dirty war" of the 1970s, the retired naval captain Alfredo Astiz, has been sentenced to 60 days' disciplinary detention in a naval barracks after he defended the "cleansing" of the opponents of the 1976-83 military regime in a magazine interview.

The attorney-general, Nicolás Becerra, has also asked the federal prosecutor to consider charging him with an "uprising against the constitutional order" for implicitly raising the threat of another coup.

'In 1982 a friend asked me if there had really been disappeared persons. I told him: There are 6,500, possibly more, but no more than 10,000'

'They cleansed them all, killed them. There was no other remedy'

Astiz is perhaps best known in Britain for his leading role in the seizure of South Georgia which preceded the Falklands war. Captured when British forces retook the island, he was handed back to Argentina, despite pressure from France and Sweden for him to be put on trial for the murder of two French nuns and a Swedish-Argentinian teenager, Dagmar Hagelin.

He was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by a French court, and international pressure contributed to his forced retirement from the navy last year. But he is reported to have continued to carry out intelligence work.

In the interview, published on Thursday by the Argentinian magazine Tres Puntos, Astiz denied the murder of Hagelin, saying he knew who had done it but would "never speak out against a comrade".

The nuns, Alice Domond and Leonie Duquet, were among a dozen people "disappeared" by the military after Astiz succeeded in infiltrating the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a group formed to uncover the fate of their missing children. The Mothers' founder was among those killed.

The interview has caused a storm in Argentina, especially because Astiz expressed no regret for his role in murders and disappearances. "In 1982 a friend asked me if there had really been disappeared persons," he said. "I told him: Sure, there are 6,500, possibly more, but no more than 10,000."

"They cleansed them all," he said referring to the disappeared. "There was no other remedy." Asked what he meant by cleansed, he said: "They killed them. What else were they going to do?"

After the return of democracy in 1983 an official report found evidence that 9,000 people had been killed. In 1995 another officer, Adolfo Scilingo (who was arrested in Spain but freed last week), revealed first-hand details of regular "death flights" during which prisoners were drugged and thrown into the sea.

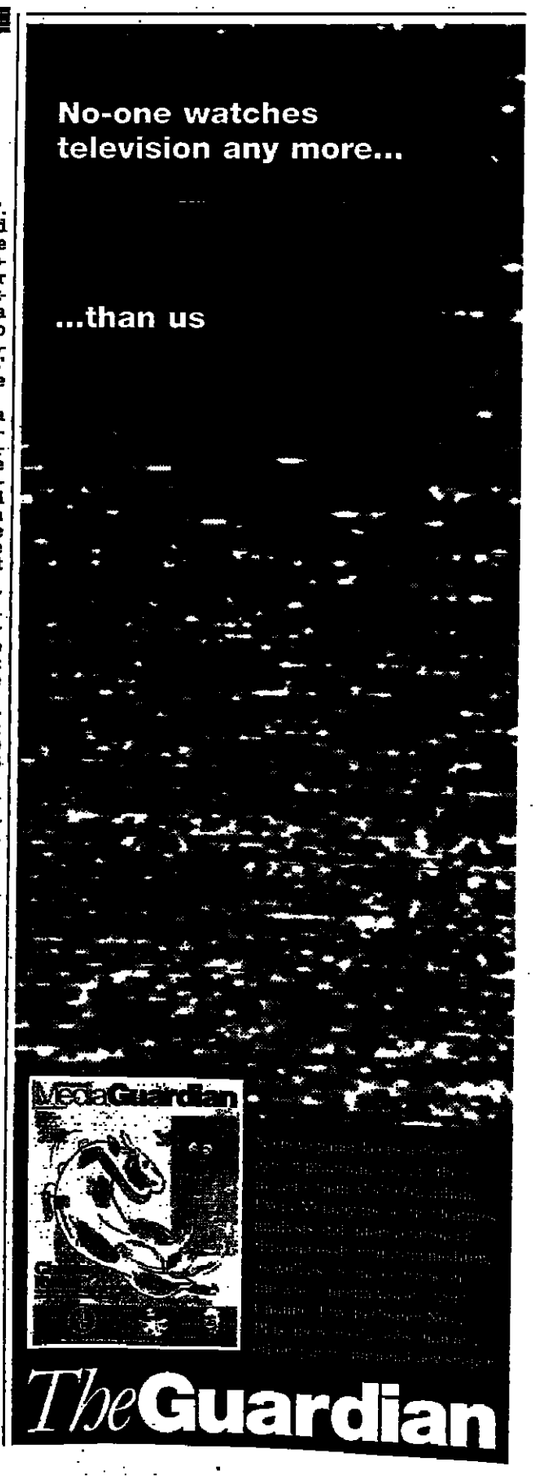
Astiz boasted he was "the best technically prepared man in this country for killing a politician or a journalist", and warned civilians to stop "cornering" the armed forces.

"They're playing with fire", he said, adding that fellow officers had visited him every day to tell him: "You have to lead an uprising."

"I always give them the same message: calm down, this happened in every country. We have to be patient. But I don't know how long we can wait."

Opposition members of congress recently introduced a bill to repeal laws which gave human rights violators like Astiz immunity from prosecution. The laws were brought in after a series of military rebellions in the mid-1980s.

The interior minister, Carlos Corach, described the Tres Puntos interview as "terrifying", and President Carlos Menem asked the navy to inflict "the maximum punishment" on Astiz.



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Junior Wells

The bouncy bluesman

JUNIOR Wells, the blues singer and harmonica player who has died from lymphona aged 63, once protested, "I just don't understand how you can play good music and stand still. That was a problem I had the first time I went to Europe. I got booed in Germany, because I was moving around and playing. They wanted to see me like Sleepy Jones Estes, where you get a chair and sit down and play. I can't play that way!"

I remember it well, Wells on stage in London at the 1966 American Folk Blues Festival, a small coiled spring in black silk zinging round the stage like a Chinese kick-boxer. A young woman next to me, subdued by the sober, introverted blues of earlier performers on the bill such as Robert Pete Williams and plainly wondering if the whole evening would be that hard going, visibly cheered up at Wells' sudden input of hot-pepper sexuality.

The same restless physicality was almost tangible in a club performance with Buddy Guy for Harley Cokliss's 1970 film documentary *Chicago Blues*. For about two decades Wells and Guy were the finest and most famous partnership in modern blues, electric descendants of that earlier harmonica-and-guitar duo Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee.

Wells and Guy had met, as so many Chicago bluesmen did, in the orbit of Muddy Waters. Wells had grown up in West Memphis. "My father ... all he knew about was sharecropping," he told the writer Paul Trynka. "He was in a plantation in ... I can't recall the name, and I don't never want to recall it no more anyway."

Rather than have to do farmwork he was sent to his mother in Chicago, where as a boy he hung around older bluesmen such as Tampa Red. By his mid-teens he was playing regularly with the guitarists Dave and Louis Myers as The Three Deuces (later Aces).

At 18 he grabbed the city's premier harmonica job, replacing Little Walter in the Muddy Waters band. Less than two years later, however, he passed the gig on to James Cotton so that, like Little Walter before him, he could promote his own career, which had recently been accelerated by his startling first recordings such as *Hoodoo Man*, made with the help of veteran musicians including Waters and Elmore James.

Though somewhat under the influence of both the earlier blues singers and harmonica players such as Sonny Boy Williamson, Wells was already revealing a distinctive harmonica tone, and on subsequent records such as *Come On In This House* and *Messin' With the Kid* he sounded both bluesy and teenagerish.

There might have been a valuable skill, had he had backing, but in common with all the Chicago bluesmen he had a lean time in the early-to-mid-1960s, scuffling for low-paid club work and infrequent recording dates. Things improved as blues was embraced by the beautiful people: Wells and Guy, who began working together regularly after collaborating on Wells's 1965 Delmark album *Hoodoo Man Blues*, were booked at hippie and campus venues, toured as support act for the Rolling Stones and recorded several albums each for the folk label Vanguard.

By the 1970s they were blues glitterati, featured in films and feted in Europe, Australia and Japan. In their interplay on stage they were at times as artful as Astaire and Rogers, though on undisciplined evenings they could come across more like Laurel and Hardy.

Whether out of laziness or because they were too busy to acquire new material, they devoted great tracts of their concerts to songs associated with their mentors Muddy Waters and Sonny Boy Williamson II, fluid medleys that allowed them plenty of room for gesture and grand-standing.

AFTER several quiet years Wells started recording in the early 1990s, and in 1996 produced the virtually acoustic *Come On In This House* with an attendant crew of slide guitarists including Sonny Landreth and Corey Harris. Seasoned admirers, preparing to greet it as his best album for more than 20 years, suddenly realised that apart from his collaborations with Guy he had let almost 20 years go by without recording very much at all.

In part that was because he had deliberately put public performance before records, and doubtless thousands of blues enthusiasts are glad that he did. But it also hints at Wells' one artistic shortcoming. Though a dramatic harmonica-player and an effective interpreter of other people's songs, he was that curious and uncommon figure, a blues singer who had no story of his own to tell.

Tony Russell

Amos "Junior" Wells, blues musician, born December 9, 1934; died January 15, 1998

Junior Wells . . . 'a coiled spring in black silk zinging round the stage like a Chinese kick-boxer' PHOTOGRAPH: REDFERNS

Face to Faith

New Labour's poor show

Bob Holman

AS LEADER of the Labour Party in opposition, Tony Blair identified with Christian socialism. By basing socialism on Christian ethics, he found an alternative to the Marxism of the hard left. The Christian Socialist Movement was delighted as Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Jack Straw and other senior colleagues enlisted and helped to boost its membership.

What did Christian socialists expect of Labour once elected? Christian socialism has various meanings and I do not speak on behalf of the Christian Socialist Movement. However, I do associate with people who have a particular concern about poverty. For them, Christian socialism includes the following. First, a belief in greater equality, which draws upon the teaching that God created all people of the equal value. Second, an identification with poor people; Jesus Christ spent his days with the poor rather than the rich. Christian socialists believe they should be alongside those whose education, family stability and health are threatened by social deprivations. Third, a commitment to the involvement of the socially excluded.

Given these objectives, it is not surprising that many Christian socialists are deeply disappointed in New Labour. Greater equality is almost a non-starter. While in opposition, Labour MPs criticised Conservative tax policies which favoured the affluent at the cost of those with low incomes. Yet on taking office, Labour decreed that income tax rates would not be increased even for those earning more than £100,000.

Hopefully, the Welfare to Work schemes will get more people into jobs. But the American experience suggests that jobs are not necessarily a way out of poverty, and numerous job-finders return to welfare. In Britain, if the latter are lone parents, they will return to a savage cut in their benefits.

New Labour now exalts the powerful, and speaks disparagingly of the poor as welfare dependents. The Daily Mail writes of "Tony Blair's glitzy champagne parties, attended by celebrities." His door is open to millionaires like Bernie Ecclestone to advocate their business interests. It is not open to the unemployed and low-paid. To its credit, New Labour has created, with a fanfare, a Social Exclusion Unit. But it has set no targets for reducing poverty. Its members and consultants are overwhelmingly made up of privileged establishment and professional figures.

Ironically, it excludes from major decision-making any residents of council estates, claimants or anyone from the hard end. I predict that, after five years, the members and consultants will have increased their salaries and improved their careers while the poor will still be excluded. As in biblical times, the powerful still use the poor.

Recently, Tony Blair revealed that he saw nothing wrong in having Labour ministers who were millionaires. A church I know on the Easterhouse estate in Glasgow is starting a breakfast club for kids. It is this kind of equality which is acceptable to New Labour but which Christian socialists find intolerable.

How can Christian socialists respond? I know some who speak of leaving the Labour Party. I prefer to stay and work for more radical policies, like a maximum wage, and for MPs who will back them. I also want friendly dialogue and prayer with Christians who are backing the Government's direction.

More immediately, Christian socialists can express their principles by the way they live. Three examples must suffice. First, by limiting their wage to no more than the average wage. This will show that personal greed does not have to dominate.

Second, by dwelling alongside those in locations of social deprivation. As they use the same shops, transport, and schools (Tony Blair, please note) they can strengthen the neighbourhood economy, and its facilities.

THIRD, by acting with residents in locally-controlled projects such as credit unions, food co-ops and day centres. These facilities not only alleviate poverty, they also enable more low-income citizens to make decisions about services which affect them.

Living out Christian socialism does not depend upon party politics, but it is relevant to them. Its absence in the lives of Labour leaders may explain their lack of determination to tackle inequality. The lifestyles of Blair, Brown, Straw, Irvine etc are characterised by huge incomes, large homes, holidays abroad, expensive restaurants and wealthy friends. Even if born into humble circumstances, they have distanced themselves from the socially needy, and hence are out of touch and give no priority to policies to transform their conditions.

George Lansbury was also a leader of the Labour Party — in the 1930s. He always refused to move from Bow in east London so that he could be amongst the unemployed. He refused all honours and perks. As "the most lovable figure in modern politics" (as A J P Taylor described him) he won many to socialism by the sheer quality of his life.

Bob Holman lives in Easterhouse, Glasgow, and is the author of Towards Equality, A Christian Manifesto published by SPCK

Anthea Joseph

An encounter at the Troubadour with Bob Dylan

IN D A Pennebaker's documentary chronicling Bob Dylan's early 1960s tour of England, *Don't Look Back*, a scene at London's Savoy Hotel features a confrontation involving the singer, his entourage and the hotel staff. Prominent in pacifying the situation is a lanky young woman with long, dark hair. She was Anthea Joseph, who has died aged 57. Her peacemaking was symbolic of a life largely devoted to smoothing things over for musicians.

Anthea first met Dylan when he came to London in 1963 to appear in a BBC television play. "I was on the door at the Troubadour and I saw this pair of highheeled boots coming down the stairs and thought, 'Oh God, another Southend cowboy,' when this skinny little scruff came up and asked: 'Are you Anthea?' He was struggling with his English money and about to tell me his name, when I said: 'I know who you are. And it's free if you do a set for me.'"

Her parents were part of 1930s Soho-Fitzrovia bohemia. Her mother, Elizbeth "Tish" Young, was a pioneering film critic for the Daily Worker and her father Noel Joseph, was a Welsh contemporary and boon companion of Dylan Thomas, and sometime deputy editor of the News Chronicle.

Anthea came to folk music through Redd Sullivan, whom she met when he was busking under Hungerford Bridge. Redd and his performing partner, Martin Windsor, introduced her to the clubs and pubs where the folk revival was taking root and Redd eventually prompted her to help in the running of the Troubadour in Earl's Court, then one of the most prestigious folk rooms in the world.

In 1966 she joined the Dublin EMI office where she artfully persuaded Radio Eireann to play the Beatles' *Lady Madonna* — Irish broadcasting having previously been disinclined to air a song which featured breast feeding. In 1969 she joined record producer Joe Boyd's London-based Witchseason and was particularly involved in the management of Fairport Convention.

After Witchseason came CBS and several production and management companies. Twenty years ago anyone with an English accent meeting an American in the music business was almost sure to be asked, "Do you know Anthea?"

She was a regular source for historians of the folk revival, but never had artistic ambitions of her own and lacked the confidence to write her music business memoirs. She was widely known, respected and loved by people in the music world, many of whom she had nurtured. "What exactly does Anthea do?" a colleague of hers was once asked. "Do?" came the reply, "well... she Antheas."

Patrick Carroll

Anthea Joseph, music promoter, born October 27, 1940; died December 24, 1997

Georgi Sviridov

Music to suit Mother Russia

GEORGI Sviridov, who has died aged 82, belonged to the important (if overshadowed) generation of Soviet composers who grew up in the early 1950s and followed immediately in the wake of Shostakovich. For Sviridov, native folksongs, patriotic subjects and "heroic" oratorios, as opposed to symphonic and concertante music, formed the core of his output, all of which is engagingly appealing to listeners, even though non-Russians may be hard put to capture the inner nuances of his more esoteric choral texts.

Sviridov was born in Fatezh, in the Kursk region south of Moscow, and after local study entered the Leningrad Central Music College. He also studied with Shostakovich at the Leningrad Conservatory upon the latter's arrival there in 1937, flush with the success of his *Fifth Symphony*. Sviridov was already an accomplished pianist, and the next four years were intensely active for the young composer. His graduation in 1941 coincided with the outbreak of war and he was evacuated to Novosibirsk.

Parted from Shostakovich, who stayed on in Leningrad for a time (producing his acclaimed *Leningrad Symphony*), Sviridov began to develop his own political values, and his evident talent found his favour in Party circles. A early Stalin prize for his 45 *Piano Trio* confirmed his ascendancy in the post-war Soviet cultural establishment. Meanwhile, he had also composed a setting of Shakespeare, a piano concerto and two string quartets.

The 1948 All Union Composers Conference, in which Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Khatchaturian and others were denounced, barely noticed Sviridov. He was working on a setting of poetry by the Georgian poet Issakian, and soon after that, in 1955, set some of Robert Burns's poems, in translation, to music.

He had already shown interest in one of Russia's most famous "revolutionary" writers, Sergei Yesenin, whose *Wooden Russia* he set in 1947. Sviridov paid tribute to Yesenin, who committed suicide in 1925, by writing a large scale oratorio in his memory for tenor soloist, chorus and orchestra (1956), his most mature work to date. The choice of poems, the folk-like nature of the solo part, the elements of dance and overall simplicity all lend weight.

Sviridov now turned his attention to another revolutionary poet and early suicide, Vladimir Mayakovsky. *The Pathetic Oratorio* (1959) invokes the memory of Lenin in crude terms, and Sviridov's music does nothing to play down these qualities. The work was taken up by the conductor Vladimir Fedoseyev, and recorded by the state recording agency, Melodiya. Most importantly, however, it won him the coveted Lenin Prize, and his elevation to the top ranks of the musical establishment followed. From 1962 to 1974 he was secretary of the USSR Union of Composers and in 1968 he became first Secretary of the Russian Federation Composers Union.

Sviridov set many other Russian writers to music, including Pasternak and Pushkin. His later work included scores for cinema and television. In 1974 he wrote a (suitably ingenuous) suite to the film based on Pushkin's short story *Snowstorm* and a notable orchestral suite for the film *Time, Forward!* (1967), after the novel by Valentin Katayev, which depicts the efforts of the undernourished, poorly housed workers building a gigantic steel plant in the heart of the Ural Mountains. The mood is one of unquenchable optimism rather than hardship and suffering, as is often the case with Sviridov and may partly explain his success: his music was deemed "safe" for mass consumption.

But that is not to dismiss him as a party hack: his literary tastes were catholic, and he possessed an unerring gift to reach the grassroots of his country's musical heritage, its songs and atmosphere, and to evoke them in a contemporary language readily understood. In recent years, mainly through recordings, his music had started to become better known outside Russia.

He leaves a wife, Elsa.

Bret Johnson

Georgi Sviridov, composer, born December 16, 1915; died January 5, 1998

Georgi Sviridov . . . the authorities deemed his music safe for mass consumption PHOTOGRAPH: NOVOSTI

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

THERE was an editing error in an account, on page 10 of our Sport98 section yesterday, of a dispute between the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association and its former chairman, Geoff Foulds. As a result we wrongly stated that a report into the abuse of the WPBSA expenses system had been leaked by its company secretary, Martyn Blake. The report was written by Mr Blake, as our correspondent said in his original story, but leaked to a national newspaper by a third party. We are happy to emphasise that Mr Blake had no hand in the leak and would like to apologise to him for any embarrassment our report may have caused.

IN A report of the funeral service for Sir Michael Tippett, (page 4, yesterday), we misspelled the name of the actor Alec McCowen.

IN THE obituary for John Pinkerton (page 14, yesterday), we referred to his national science degree at Cambridge. We should have said natural science.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Weekend birthdays

John Hume might have been lording it up on his 61st birthday tomorrow in Aras An Uachtarain, the residence of the Irish President. He would have made a popular choice and would have had an easy run had he thrown his name forward for the October poll. He eventually declined, opting instead to continue his battle for peace in Northern Ireland.

A languages teacher and Europhile — he is an MEP as well as MP for Foyle, which includes his native Derry — the SDLP leader rose to prominence 30 years ago as a civil rights activist. He has played a crucial, and often controversial, role in politics ever since. His work with Gerry Adams helped pave the way for Sinn Fein's entry into the political mainstream, his secret contacts often riling party members who were generally unconsulted.

His colleagues see him as aloof, a loose cannon, and he is criticised in private for what some see as his use of the SDLP, which he has led for almost 20 years, as a personal vehicle. Some say he is vain. Few claim to know him well.

But his commitment to peace has never been in doubt. It has caused him some awful moments, particularly when the first IRA ceasefire collapsed two years ago. He has stuck to the same message throughout, often at some cost to his own party's fortunes. 1998 will, he knows, be a watershed year.

Today's birthdays: **Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan**, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 65; **Muhammad Ali**, former boxer, 56; **Sir Edward Fennessy**, radar pioneer, 86; **Monica Furlong**, writer, 68; **Damian Green**, Conservative MP, 42; **Françoise Hardy**, singer and songwriter, 54; **Caroline Hodge**, president, Open Door International, 90; **Anthony Kenney**, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 56; the **Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch**, Bishop of Wakefield, 56; **Paul Merton**, broadcaster and comic, 41; **Prof Ann Oakley**, sociologist and writer, 54; **Prof William Robertson**, histo-pathologist, 75; **Vidal Sassoon**, hair stylist, 70; **Moira Shearer**, writer, actress and ballet dancer, 72; **Richard Smethurst**, economist, provost of Worcester College, Oxford, 57; **Audrey Slaughter**, editor and novelist, 68; **Sir Clyde Walcott**, chairman, International Cricket Council, 72; **Cedar Walton**, jazz pianist, composer, 68; **Paul Young**, singer, 42.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: **Chief Emeka Anyaoku**, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 65; **Peter Beardsley**, footballer, 37; **David Bellamy**, botanist, 65; **John Boorman**, film director, 65; **Raymond Briggs**, author and illustrator, 64; **David Burke**, chief constable, North Yorkshire, 59; **Iain Coleman**, Labour MP, 40; **Kevin Costner**, actor, 43; **Richard Dunwoody**, jockey, 34; **Christian Fittipaldi**, racing driver, 27; **Sir Rocco Forte**, hotelier, 53; **Paul Keating**, former prime minister of Australia, 54; **Mark Rylance**, artistic director, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, 38.

Births

McCABE/SMITHERS. Eamonn and Rebecca are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Mabel, on the 9.1.98. A beautiful granddaughter for Alick, Betty and Celia. Thanks to everyone at the Homerton.

■To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

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Please, Mr Robinson

Go easy on the arts

CAN it get any worse? The outgoing Arts Council chairman, Lord Gowrie, departed yesterday declaring the current situation was "the worse revenue crisis in the arts in my adult lifetime". The new chairman Gerry Robinson, an ebullient character notorious for his readiness to play the philistine when he took over Granada Television, turned down the job at first, openly admitting his lack of enthusiasm was due to "the lack of freedom in the post". And to cap off the week, the new chairman of the Royal Opera House, Sir Colin Southgate, already under conflict-of-interest suspicions as chairman of EMI with its exclusive contracts with a small group of conductors, holds his first press conference and defends its elitist approach: "We mustn't downgrade the opera house. I don't want to sit next to somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers." So much for his political nous. Sir Colin was clearly unaware of Labour's new subsidy dictum: inclusivity is the price of public support.

Lord Gowrie bluntly condemned both his former Conservatives colleagues for their cuts to arts funding and the new Labour administration for its imprudent adoption of Tory spending plans for its first two years. But some of the blame falls on Gowrie himself. Even though a former politician, he proved inept at negotiating the political rapids which the position requires and failed to modernise the Council's antiquated management. The Council's mishandling of the Royal Opera's redevelopment destabilised not just support for regional theatres but the London fringe as well. Theatres, orchestras and dance companies across the country all suffered in yesterday's handouts — the fifth successive year Arts Council grants have been cut.

Many creative people in television would declare the new solution, Gerry Robinson, will only make the current problem worse. He is an arch cutter. But judgment should be suspended. He is not as barbaric as he pretends. He does have close contacts with Labour's leaders. And the Arts Council needs shaking up. The new lottery bill offers hope. The aim is to give the Council a strategic role for the first time with new powers to invite bids from regional companies rather than just waiting passively for applications. Growing lottery cash — which now exceeds the Council's £180 million revenue grants — will no longer be restricted to capital projects. There is a limit to the number of cultural palaces needed. This year will be grim but some sunshine can be seen on the horizon.

Love the piggy within

For they are just like us

WE eat almost every bit of them — except the squeal — with their meat more variously named than any other species: gammon, ham, bacon and, of course, pork. They are the subjects of nursery rhymes (This little piggy ...), children's stories (Three Little Pigs) and everyday metaphor (piggy in the middle). They have been the pets of a premier (Stanley Baldwin) and the object of obsessive love (remember Lord Emsworth's passion for his prize porker, the Empress of Blandings?) This week they became the object of that ever-so-British phenomenon: a bout of collective, animal-inspired madness. The Guardian cannot tell the inside story of the Tamworth Two's flight from the slaughterhouse — that's been bought up for £15,000 by the Daily Mail. That newspaper now has some explaining to do. What message has it sent to the 15 million other pigs sentenced to the abattoir each year: escape from pig-jail and your defiance shall be rewarded with a life of peace and animal sanctuary? The Daily Mail's long record on law and order must now be called into question.

The task now is to sort out what is clearly a relationship of deep, but mixed emotions: the British and the Pig. On the one hand, we use them as synonyms for dirt and crudity. The unevolved man is a "male chauvinist pig," while, to those wary of police heavy-handedness, the constabulary are "the pigs." Literature has cast them as frequent villains — most famously in the form of Napoleon, the porcine dictator of Animal Farm. We chop up all their bits for food with barely a squeal of dissent.

And yet we cherish our pink friends. A A Milne's Piglet is a cutie, Miss Piggy a favourite Muppet. Now Butch and Sundance are to join the porker hall of fame, immortalised as a pair of soft toys — coming in "beige-pink colour with soft ears and likely to sell for under £10 each." Perhaps the stand-out, though, was Babe — the precursor of the Tamworth duo in its plucky determination to dodge its fate. It is no coincidence that pigs are often used as a substitute for humans in films, scientific experiments and the like. For our attitude to pigs is the same as our view of humans: we don't know whether to love them or hate them.

A Country Diary

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE: In wet and blustery weather, a walk along the Nevern estuary to Newport sands is always pleasurable. After all, we expect sand to be wet. High winds, high rivers and high tides have covered the banks with wood. One old long-boat abandoned on its side with broken spars is filled with an assortment of branches swept in by the water. The birds enjoy the potential. Oyster catchers call, land and probe the debris with their sharp beaks. A mud bank is covered in a collection of gulls. Suddenly, they rise together and call, the sound of the herring gull echoing over the water. Mallards cruise along, beady eyes alert for food. Curlews move and cry whilst cormorants, dark pirates, rove up and down the water, suddenly upending to re-appear where we least expect them, but no fish in beak. The waves break like a row of trained dancers, a long line of falling water and, as the end falls, the beginning is rising to a crest again. Wind and waves pattern the sand. On the way back, we surprise a charm of goldfinches, so light, so joyous. Here's a finch we can all enjoy. It eats thistle seeds, unlike the beautiful bullfinch. The superabundance of water everywhere led inevitably to a superabundance of rainbows around the almost full moon. The dark night-sky glowed with colour. An optical illusion? A portent? There was the moon surfing our ordinary sky surrounded by colour. I kept on waking up that night to moonspot, but it didn't last. The moon slipped lower and lower in the sky behind a frieze of bare branches with no colour. "A rainbow in the morning/ Is the shepherd's warning/ Put a rainbow at night/ is the shepherd's delight" is an old weather rhyme, but the next day, dry to start, soon turned to the same triumphant rain.

AUDREY INSCH

Letters to the Editor

That was the week that was

TIM Radford (How to live longer, Analysis, January 16) notes that the pressure to treat previously fatal diseases and conditions has created "a burden of pensioners-to-be" for tomorrow's developed world. It is not simply longevity that has added to our social security bill, but a number of factors, particularly age discrimination.

Our society's cruel ageism refuses to value older people's skills and experience, and denies many people over 40 the opportunity to work and create their own wealth. Better health can only improve older people's productivity and reduce the burden on the NHS.
Sally Greengross.
Director-General,
Age Concern England.
London SW16 4ER.

AS enforcers of food-safety legislation, we are concerned that the performance of local authorities in food-safety inspection should not be judged solely on the numbers of inspections (Guess who's coming to dinner, January 14). The effectiveness of safety enforcement should be measured by reference to a number of factors, including the quality of advice given to food businesses, the effectiveness of public education campaigns and the hygiene training of food-handling workers.
Michael Cooke.
Chief Exec, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.
15 Hatfields, London SE1.

THIS week, the "lazy parents" are those who spend too little time with their children (Labour targets lazy parents, January 16). Yet only a few weeks ago, the "lazy parents" were those single mothers who spent *too much* time with their children instead of going out to work.
Anne Sherman.
89 St Albans Road,
Derby DE22 3JN.

THE Government is to rename our dependent territories as British overseas territories (Report, January 15). Why not go further and grant the territories representation in Westminster? French overseas territories and departments are so represented in their national assembly.
L Freitag.
22 Cravells Road,
Harpenden, Herts AL5 1BD.

THIS little porker has committed no crime (Tamworth two: one detained, one still on the run, January 16). He seems to have led a blameless life — no scandal, no sleaze. This incident makes it even more important to implement a privacy law. The Tamworth One should not be hounded by the paparazzi.
Jenny Wilford.
32 Alexandra Road,
Windsor, Berks SL4 1HR.

A fight at the opera

CONTRARY to Sir Colin Southgate's belief (The new voice of opera, January 1), in the days when I, as a schoolgirl from a south London council house, could afford to attend Covent Garden, we actually bathed occasionally and dressed in a suitable manner. Then, the amphitheatre had backless benches at half-a-crown.

I wonder how many south London schoolchildren can afford today's prices. Sir Colin should realise that even those of us on low incomes know what soap is and would like the opportunity of enjoying the arts. We also have standards.
Shirley A Haynes.
School House, Bythorn,
Huntingdon PE18 0QS.

ON your front page, you headline the hostility of the latest chairman of the Royal Opera towards informal footwear. On an inside page, you report the funeral for Sir Michael Tippett, who went to Buckingham Palace in "brightly-coloured plimsolls". Had he lived, I take it the eccentric old composer would not have been welcome at Covent Garden.
Geoffrey Haydon.
115 Durham Road,
London N2 9DR.

SIR Colin Southgate has a nerve. The amount of the subsidy on his ticket is more than an ordinary person's weekly wage packet.
John Thompson.
29 West Street,
Newport NP9 4DD.

IN Glasgow, Scottish Opera performs internationally acclaimed productions on a fraction of the subsidy the Royal Opera receives, yet its cheapest ticket is £1.50.

I have paid the ridiculous prices the Royal Opera charges at Covent Garden and regretted it. Not only did I see a poor young and played performance while sitting in uncomfortable seats. I encountered delectable snide-swipes at my denim-clad legs by badly-dressed, elderly old farts. After paying the best part of a hundred quid for a seat, I reserve the right to wear what I like. I'd rather enjoy world-class opera in Glasgow and Edinburgh, where inclusivity is a byword.
Stephen Duffy.
5 Hughenden Terrace,
Glasgow G12 9XR.

PERSONALLY, I don't want to be aware of a "smelly pair of trainers" at the opera, anymore than I want to be surrounded by stiff-necked suits when I'm in a mosh pit at the Brixton Academy.
Simon Evans.
98 Ady's Road,
London SE15 4DZ.

CAN we expect that Gerry Robinson, newly-appointed chairman of the Arts Council (Granada man takes poisoned chalice, January 15), will translate the aesthetic qualities of Granada motorway service areas to galleries, theatres and concert halls throughout the nation?
David Ainley.
41 The Hill, Cromford,
Matlock DE4 3RF.

Some questions for Mr Cook

GENERAL Feisal Tanjung, commander of the Indonesian armed forces, has warned that his troops will "slice any opposition forces to pieces" if they dare to take a stand against the government (Crisis turns Indonesia against ailing Suharto, January 8). British-made armoured vehicles supplied since the Labour Government took power could be in the thick of it if this happens. With the Suharto regime now facing a crisis of historic proportions, it is more than overdue for the British government to halt all exports of weapons to Indonesia, including those covered by licences already issued.
Carmel Budiardjo.
Paul Barber.
Indonesia Human Rights Campaign,
111 Northwood Road,
Thorton Heath CR7 8HW.

NEW Labour's "ethical foreign policy" faces another severe test with the decision of the Turkish military to select the Heckler & Koch HK33 assault rifle. Heckler & Koch is owned by Royal Ordnance — a subsidary of British Aerospace. There can be no doubt that an assault rifle is a weapon of internal repression and will be used against civilians in Turkey, particularly the Kurds.

Tony Blair has been a vocal champion of Turkey's admission into the EU. When will he advocate the cause of human rights with equal enthusiasm and denounce this contract?
Alan Brooke.
59 Mag Dale, Honley,
Huddersfield HD7 2LX.

SEVEN years have passed since the US and its British and other allies conducted a war against Iraq in which facilities essential to civilian life and economic productivity were destroyed (UN fails in last-ditch Iraq talks, January 16). In that time, economic sanctions have resulted in the deaths of between one and two million Iraqis, most of them children.

Britain's government talks of a "moral" approach to foreign policy. Yet where the interests of British oil companies and arms manufacturers are concerned, this talk is almost universally perceived by international public opinion to be hypocritical.

On this anniversary of the war's outbreak, we reiterate our call for the immediate lifting of sanctions, and a new approach for an agreed, just and non-violent resolution to the points at issue in the Gulf.
Ahmed Ben Bella.
Tony Benn MP.
Hugh Stephens.
Commission of Inquiry on Economic Sanctions,
BM 2966,
London WC1N 3XX.

Welfare: holes in the argument

THE shape that welfare reform is taking (Trust us on welfare — Labour, January 14) is unconvincing. Specific objectives, and published estimates of what shifts in the total value of taxes and incomes are being designed to reduce poverty and social polarisation, have not been given. There are three particular problems:

● In the debate about the social security "cost" of £95 billions, no distinction is made between entitlement to national insurance benefits, covered by contributions paid (sometimes over a lifetime) by wage-earners, employers and the self-employers, and selective means-tested benefits paid for out of taxation. The latter is only a third of the total and is the main, and often undeserved, target of opprobrium.

● In references to the poorest 20 per cent, there are no corresponding references to the richest 20 per cent, who receive £200 billion a year in disposable income — more than 40 per cent of GDP. Waste and tax evasion here is far more significant than fraud and "undeserved" income among the poorest 20 per cent.

● In references to public consultation, there is no acknowledgement that there is voluminous survey evidence showing that not only does an overwhelming majority of the public support more spending on health, education and social insurance benefits — like pensions — but a majority, including many in the richest 20 per cent, also accept paying more tax to achieve that objective.
Prof Peter Townsend.
University of Bristol.

IN the current debate, Social Fund payments towards maternity expenses have been ignored. In April 1998, for the eighth consecutive year, the payments made to pregnant women receiving income support, family credit or disability living allowance towards maternity expenses will be frozen at £100.

A shift of focus towards the large numbers on low incomes receiving inadequate maternity payments, and away from the small numbers of women of child-rearing age who earn over £100,000, would be very welcome.
Les Allamby.
Director, Law Centre.
124 Donegall Street,
Belfast BT1 2GY.

With regard to the debate concerning the "capping" of welfare benefits, surely the answer is to limit the benefits paid relative to the contributions made? Either that, or remove the ceiling at which NI contributions are made.
Roger Fryatt,
Bawdeswell Lodge,
Bylaugh Park,
Nr Dereham NR20 4RJ.

On the road to nowhere

IN Dudley, Tony Blair expressed surprise that we seemed to believe that the increasing cost of social security is the result of poverty, rather than its cause (Blair's mission to reassure, January 16). He exhorts us to limit social security spending, use it more wisely, and share it out more fairly. In this way, he suggests, more jobs will be provided, making it possible for lone parents, the unemployed, young layabouts, and even many disabled people to go to work and leave behind a life of poverty.

What can we do to help, except to accept a withering on the vine of the state pension? Should we make a donation to the Treasury of part of any private pension to which we have also contributed?
Joe Harris.
Nat Pensioners Convention,
Milner Place,
London N1 1TN.

THE last time Tony Blair went on a royal progress to sell his vision of New Labour, I, as a party member, rang to ask where I could get a ticket. I was told that there were tickets available at £3 each. When, during the conversation, it became obvious that I would not be wholly sympathetic to Tone's view of the future, the person on the other end suddenly discovered that the tickets she thought were available had already been allocated.
Brian Bethell.
3 Cherry Drive,
Canterbury,
Kent CT2 8HF.

YOU report (January 15) that "Blair will tonight launch a personal campaign to take the case for welfare reform to the people ..." Since when has "a private audience of Labour activists" been the same as "taking a case to the people?"
John Ward.
42 Seal Road, Bramhall,
Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2JS.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used

The new face of feminism

I HAVE not read Natasha Walter's book, The New Feminism, but Elaine Showalter's account of it (Books, January 15), especially her approbation of Walter's "gutsiness" in praising Margaret Thatcher as "the great, unsung heroine of British feminism" is astonishing. Since Margaret Thatcher's politics wreaked havoc on the lives of ordinary, especially black, British women in this country, this new approval by "feminists" like Showalter is presumably based not on any ethical or political principle but simply on her being a woman. This is an ugly underside of sexism.
Prof Lewis Nkosi.
Queen Mary & Westfield College,
University of London.

Tension rises as British carrier heads for Gulf

Dangerous states

Martin Woollacott
Commentary

COULD there be a multiple political crash in the Middle East, a kind of motorway pile-up of the nations? The optimists say that crises often cancel each other out, and that an accumulation of difficulties is not the same thing as a single problem. Yet what can be said about a situation in which four of the main Middle Eastern states — Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Turkey — are all in a state of screwed-up internal tension, and all in the throes of a critical shift in their relations with the United States and Europe? Certainly, that it is full of danger, even if certain possibilities of resolution are also visible.

In the past week, Iran has seen its president and religious leader clash even more directly than before over the United States, the first sending a message of reconciliation to America, the second harshly discounting it only a few days later. In the same week, Iraq has pushed its blatant manoeuvrings over weapons monitoring to the point where the United States has begun making angry noises, and Britain has despatched a carrier to join US forces in the Gulf. Again in the same week, the Israeli government, whose majority now hangs by a thread, has produced a tendentious package of conditions that the Palestinians "must" meet before Israel will consider any further troop withdrawals from the West Bank, making it clear that any withdrawals would, in any case, be minimal. This surely means that next week's meeting in Washington with the Palestinians, which the Americans had hoped would produce significant concessions by Israel, will not do so.

Meanwhile, Turkey, estranged from the European Union after the Luxembourg summit placed it firmly at the extreme back of the queue for membership, has banned the Islamist Refah Party, a decision which, combined with the jolt from an insensitive Europe, could lead to unpredictable changes in both its internal politics and its foreign policy.

Looked at from Washington, the curious pairing that results is that Turkey and Iran are coming closer to America, while Iraq and Israel are, in their different ways, moving toward confrontation. Within days of Luxembourg, the Turks punished Europe by signing a Boeing contract, disappointing Airbus, a highly demonstrative example of trade in the service of politics. Yet the United States, while the beneficiary of Turkey's disillusion with Europe, is nevertheless going to find it hard to prevent a serious clash between Turkey and Europe, and especially Turkey and Greece, over Cyprus, when talks over the island's admission to the EU begin at the end of March.

The new Iranian president sees in the American quandary over Iraq a historic opportunity to escape from the isolation that the United States has imposed, however imperfectly, on his country, although whether he can deliver the necessary conditions is obviously questionable. But Israel, furious at the possibility of an Iranian rapprochement with the United States, or perhaps buffing up a card it intends to give up at an appropriate moment, is making even more intemperate statements about Iran than usual.

Iran, Binyamin Netanyahu said after President Mohammad Khatami gave his conciliatory CNN interview, "now poses the most ominous danger to our region and the world." That puts Israel in the peculiar position of ranking Iraq as the lesser danger to itself and to the United States at a time when the obvious American option is to counter Iraq's moves by entering into a dialogue with Iran.

Looked at from Paris and Moscow, the pairing is different. Turkey and Israel are moving away, while Iran and Iraq are both getting closer. This reflects the Franco-Russian position that both Iran and Iraq must be brought in from the cold, and sanctions on them reduced and eventually discarded. It also reflects the European Union's falling out with Turkey, an astonishingly stupid affair, compounded by bad manners, and its falling out with Israel, which listens to Europe even less than it does to the United States.

The cat's cradle of conflicting interests in the region is made worse by the growing divergence between the United States, Europe, and Russia. The detail is confusing, but the overall picture is one of the absence of outside influence in a region which ideally should be able to look after its own affairs. It is a long, long way from being able to do so. The United States cannot, it seems, effectively influence either Israel or Iraq on things that matter, whatever combination of carrots and sticks; is far from having achieved any influence over Iran, and cannot even be sure that it will be able to restrain an angry Turkey. The Europeans have achieved no especial position in Iran or Iraq, in spite of their advocacy, Britain excepted, of a softer approach to both countries. They have wounded Turkey and count for very little in Israel. The Russians have a certain cachet in Baghdad, for obvious reasons, but little beyond that.

Europe could contribute to a new start in the Middle East

As American and European influence falters, the internal situation in all these countries sharpens. Saddam, obviously, sees himself in a potentially winning position, even if that involves enduring American missiles and bombs in a few weeks time, as it may well do. His dictatorship, his provocative manoeuvres, and his readiness to risk war are a heavier and heavier burden on Iraqis. What politics are submerged beneath oppression, whether they are religious or secular, military or civilian, is hardly to be known. The regime is bankrupt in everything except cruelty. In Iran, there is undoubtedly going to be a struggle within the ruling establishment that could be more serious than recent conflicts and yet will not necessarily end with a clear winner.

In Israel, an almost totally paralysed government has been aptly compared by its defecting foreign minister, David Levy, to an aircraft "on a journey to nowhere." But the paralysis of government also reflects a situation in which the different elements of society, religious and secular, Sephardic and Ashkenazi, sabra and Russian immigrant, are notably failing to cohere.

In Turkey, the impact of the decision to ban Refah will undoubtedly lead to further polarisation, even if, as has always been the case in the past, the banned party soon re-emerges under a different name. In spite of the great differences between these countries, there are some obvious parallels between governments with little room for manoeuvre, holding power in divided societies, dealing in a politics shaped by the clash between fundamentalism and secularism, and out of sympathy with former friends and allies outside the region.

How to escape from this threatening circle, which is not just a matter of policies, but of underlying social changes? Undoubtedly, the twinned problems of Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian relationship remain central, as they have been since the Gulf war in 1991, but they are even more pressing today. The United States could recover its balance by a combination of three policies — precipitating an Israeli election, which is probably not beyond its powers, responding more fully to Iranian feelers, and facing down Iraq, with military action if necessary.

But it must be a combination — a policy of military punishment of Iraq on its own is not going to change the regional mood, which is is very cynical about America's firmness of purpose, nor alter the views of Russia and France. But, if there were a broader, convincing American plan for the region, Europe could contribute to such a new start in the Middle East by coming more into line with Washington on both Iran and Iraq, and by making serious efforts to placate Turkey. Otherwise, there could be trouble ahead.

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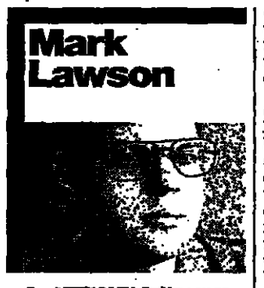
هكذا من الاصل

Saturday opinion

A lawful killing



Mark Lawson

ANTHONY Julius may this week have felt in need of a good lawyer. Reports that his legal firm, Mishcon de Reya, has charged £500,000 in fees to *the Diana Princess of Wales* Memorial Committee have brought to a head public concern that lawyers are walking around with the kind of cash-packed briefcases usually associated with bank-robbers.

If Julius is looking for escapist entertainment, he should probably not go to see the new Al Pacino movie The Devil's Advocate. The plot is that Satan has come to earth and opened a law practice in Manhattan. *Given the popularity of* anti-lawyer jokes in America — Q: "What's the difference between a dead lawyer and a dead skunk on the road?" A: "There are skid-marks in front of the skunk" — it should be no *surprise that this is the pro*fession chosen by the Devil.

It's a good time for the film to be released because this week's pursuit of Julius was compelling evidence that anti-lawyer feeling — until now essentially *an American phenomenon* — was taking hold in Britain.

For a number of reasons, British lawyers have not yet become as famous or as hated as their American equivalents. Superstar at*torneys in the US resulted* from two factors not yet present in this country: televised trials and a culture of hair-trigger litigation. The subsequent backlash against the trade was caused by a public perception *that criminals were* being freed by expensive defencers. Again, such verdict-rage has rarely been heard

> This is the profession chosen by the Devil

in this country. This is *partly* because our contempt laws severely limit media comment on unlikely *results, but also because the* most scandalous cases in Britain involved not clever defences but unsafe prosecutions. For these, public opinion usually blamed the police or forensic scientists rather than lawyers.

Britain's nearest equivalent to the lawyer joke was the judge joke, in particular gags which presented them as senile or out of touch with popular culture. Indeed, the Home Office has just announced plans to improve the image of judges through a public information campaign on the rules of sentencing.

Even so, the plot of The Devil's Advocate would *have had little satirical im*pact if transferred to the inns of court. Lawyers were simply *not central enough* to British culture. Although the comedian Bernard Manning has a gag in his act about George Carman QC being able to get Stevie Wonder a driving licence, stars from the bar — such as John Mortimer and Clive Anderson — have generally become famous through activities outside the courtroom.

So Julius is perhaps this country's first true celebrity lawyer, in the sense that it was purely legal busi*ness — the negotiation of* the Princess of Wales's divorce — which brought him recognition. Accordingly, it falls to him to suffer the anti-lawyer backlash.

This has been building for several months. Although the trial of the Maxwell brothers had long been controversial, the initial point at issue had been the granting of legal aid to rich defendants. Only recently has attention shifted to the huge fees earned by barristers in this and other state-funded cases.

At the same time, the country's top lawyer — Lord Chancellor Irvine — became a figure of unusual controversy. Again, the complaint was profligacy: the running costs of his official residence and department. (The £13,500 public-funded cost of Lord Irvine's trip to a conference in the West Indies was revealed yesterday to further criticism.)

In this context, the £500,000 charged by Mischon de Reya for work related to the Diana fund *seems to confirm the im*pression of a greedy profession recklessly insensitive to public opinion. The firm's pained explanation that the figure represents a 20 per cent discount and so the work is being charged *"virtually at cost"* will surely increase rather than defuse general incredulity at judicial economics.

After all, a large part of the Diana Fund's work involves administering the proceeds from Elton John's *memorial* record, and Sir Elton has worked for free. It's true that Julius serves on the fund committee on a *pro bono* basis, but this raises another difficulty. The committee's retention of Julius's firm on a com*mercial (even if hand*somely reduced) basis is, one suspects, the kind of thing that would have Mishcon de Reya lawyers sending stiff letters about conflicts of interest if it involved another company.

And the row over fees serves to underline an impression that the lawyers were behaving over-mightily in the matter of Diana. Some of their manoeuvres — threatening to copyright the princess's name and *image*, seeking to make alterations through the courts to a will they had failed to keep up-to-date — gave the impression of taking advantage of the unprecedented mood to indulge strong-arm tactics which would not normally be plausible.

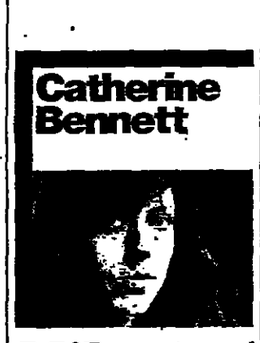
Yet, in Julius's defence, it should be said that Britons still have far fewer reasons to detest lawyers than Americans. Sustained litigation has come close to making the presidency an untenable position. In the next few days, President *Clinton will give a deposi*tion in the harassment suit brought by Paula Jones over events in an Arkansas motel room long ago. It may soon be necessary for the President's penis to be observed — both flaccid and *erect — by a judge, in order* to assess Jones's claims about its alleged orientation. This act of judicial flashing, if it were to occur, would be the final sign of a country lost to lawyers.

And the legal crisis does not merely affect the first citizen. The jury's failure to reach a verdict in the trial of *the suspected Oklahoma* bomber Timothy McVeigh merely extended the recent trend by which high-profile cases in the US — the Menendez Brothers, OJ Simpson, Louise Woodward — either fail to produce a verdict or go to a replay to create a result acceptable to the electorate.

Britain faces a similar crisis in relation to fraud prosecutions, and there will be increasing opportunities to feel hostile to lawyers. Whatever its other *consequences*, European integration means more work and more money for lawyers: the British government was hauled to Strasbourg again yesterday, this time by Earl Spencer in his pursuit of privacy legislation.

It was reported this week that BBC Radio 4 turned down an offer to dramatise one of John Mortimer's Rumpole stories. It was rumoured that the novelist's depiction of feminism was felt to be old-fashioned. The way things are going, you suspect it would be Mortimer's gently amused attitude towards the law that would cause the problem. The lawyer joke has hit Britain, and Mishcon de Reya's fees seem to many like a joke in very bad taste.

Old girls



Catherine Bennett

HOW many types of women are there? One, two, three ... ooh, a heck of a lot? Until recently, there seemed little point in *overcomplicating matters*. Or not beyond blondes and brunettes, short and tall, dead and alive. Then Helen Wilkinson, from Demos, the tip-top think-tank, *noticed that* women could vary quite a bit. From now on, she ruled, they no longer constituted an homogenous group, and should be addressed as follows: Mannish Mel, New Age Angela, Networking Naomi, Back to *Basics Barbara*, and Frustrated Fran. She explained that just about anyone could be made to fit these categories, no matter what their real name. For example, the actress Emma Thompson and designer Nicole Farhi were both really *Naomis. Sophie* Grigson and Linda McCartney were Angelas, while Anne Atkins was actually a Barbara. Simple, once you got the hang of it.

Soon, however, this handy set of stereotypes was com*promised by the arrival of* Worcestershire Woman, the *spin-doctor's friend; a brace* of It Girls, a blonde rabble known as Fluffies (introduced by the Daily Mail); then engulfed by tides of Lone Rangers and Thirtysomethings and Middle Youths.

Latest on the scene is the *New Feminist, a type which*, according to its taxonomist, Natasha Walter, is so malleable and inclusive, that it even welcomes men. "The old myth about feminists, that they all wear dungarees and are lesbians and socialists, *must be buried for good*", she says firmly. "However young women dress, however they flirt, they can be feminists."

Her approach, though generous, is of little use when it comes to identification, or compared to most field *guides. As yet, it is unclear* whether anyone has ever ac*tually seen a new feminist*. What distinguishes her from a Third Wave Feminist, or a New Motherhood Feminist, or from someone who isn't feminist at all? What does the New Feminism look like; what is its habitat?

"*You can see it in politics* and journalism and television dramas and everyday life", Walter says. "You can see it among actresses and writers, schoolgirls and politicians, mothers and businesswomen. Everywhere you go, you see *women flexing their muscles* and demanding equality."

In fact, everywhere you go, you hear a great and growing army of women wittering about Bridget Jones.

Unlike Networking Naomi, Bridget Jones is a label for *modern women, which is ac*

> You hear an army of women wittering about Bridget Jones

*tually employed, enthusiasti*cally, by women themselves, as well as by media and marketing consultants. Since it was published at the end of 1996, Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones's Diary has sold 700,000 copies. After being briefly displaced by Terry Pratchett, the comic diary is once again leading the paperback best-seller list. "Presumably, people got it for Christmas, and told their friends it was brilliant", says one of the book's publicists, happily. Some may think the media have, as usual, created the phenomenon they claim to be reporting, but the publishers believe otherwise, saying it's "*a word of mouth thing*".

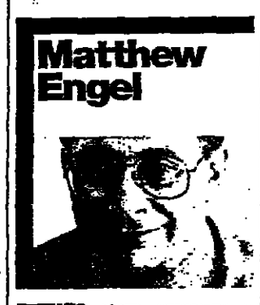
For a while, it was. Then, last summer, word of mouth became newspaper and magazine articles, and by last week, national news: in a News at Ten report, an assortment of wine-bar wannabes declared that this book told the truth about their lives.

From the first, features about Fielding's book emphasised reader identification — rather than, say, the author's comic invention — as the reason for its success. Magazines showed women competing *for the prize of closest* resemblance to a fictional character — "*I'm* Bridget Jones, No, *I'm* Bridget Jones." And, they predicted, if you hadn't identified with her yet, you would, you would: "You are very BJ if you ... Drink more than you should, smoke more than you should, take up to a day to prepare for a date ... ". In fact you are probably very BJ if you have breasts and answer *to a woman's name*. Somehow, Fielding's dippy hedonist became, as Newsweek proclaimed, "a heroine for modern women".

WHY? Jones is an inspired creation, a *worthy successor to* Lorelei Lee, Adrian Mole and Mr Pooter. But, while Pooter had his fans — "I regard any bedroom I occupy as unfurnished without a copy of it", Lord Rosebery — widespread appreciation did not become identification; there were no delighted cries of Pooter, *c'est moi*. Why, nowadays, are women so keen to hail a dim, socially maladroit buffoon as themselves to the life?

But the mystery evaporates when you finally read the book. As indestructible as Tom or Jerry, Bridget Jones is miraculously undamaged by her intake of wine, cigarettes, and chocolate. None of the acutely observed, nineties insecurities can prevent her living out an impeccable romantic fantasy: a helpless girl's effortless ensnaring of a rich, handsome man. Most shockingly, the saint of single thirtysomethings is not really single at all. Bridget Jones's diary is Bridget Gets Her Man. It's Mills and Boon brought up to date (in accoutrements, rather than outcome). If this explains much about the appeal of *"I'm* Bridget Jones, No, *I'm* Bridget Jones", competitions, it is also instructive for those with high hopes for the New Feminism: forget it.

What a Bummer



Matthew Engel

THIS story concerns a man called Steve Kettle. *He was born in Basing*stoke. His parents came from equally unexotic places. If there were such a thing as a British citizen, he would be one. He is the sort of person who normally only notices the British immigration laws when he marches through at Heathrow, and takes a quick, pitying glance at the poor saps queuing in the non-EU line.

Now the British immigra*tion laws have wrecked his* chance of happiness. And there is nothing, in your caring, sharing Britain, he can do about it.

Kettle is 46, a journalist and political analyst. In 1990 he moved to Prague to be the Reuters correspondent there. His marriage was already in tatters and, when his time was up with Reuters, he chose to stay on.

Last year he decided enough was enough. He had no more work in Prague, and he wanted to come back to London to be near his daughters. However, there was another consideration. Her name is Marketa Bancevova.

They had been together since 1994. She is half-Czech, half-Bulgarian, speaks four languages and until recently was the marketing manager of an Internet company. Mar*keta arrived in London in* August, shortly after Steve left Prague. She told the immigration officer when she arrived that she was staying for 10 days. Then, as is routine, she was given a permit to stay for six months, until February. *After 10 days she* went back.

In November she returned, saying she wanted to stay for three months. This was the precise truth: Steve and Marketa wanted to give living here together a trial while he looked for a job. Indeed, she had a fixed APEX ticket to take her back on January 31.

This time she did not get the routine six months, and she was not allowed to stay until February, *as she had* been earlier. This time Britain was gripped by a panic that the entire country was about to be overrun by millions of Czech gypsies. The desk immigration officer at Heathrow Terminal Two called over a colleague. Marketa was led away.

The process lasted about three hours. She was searched; her letters were photocopied; Steve, waiting *the other side of the customs* hall, was called in once and then a second time. Eventu*ally Marketa was handed* three pieces of paper. The most significant said: "I am not satisfied that you are genuinely seeking entry as a visitor for the limited period as stated by you. I therefore refuse you leave to enter the UK. I have given directions for your removal ... You are not entitled to appeal."

The signature on the notice was illegible, so it is impossible to find out who made the decision. But it looked like "A Bummer".

Marketa was allowed to come in for four days pending deportation. Then she obeyed the law and left. "God knows why they allowed her the four *days," said Steve. "If they* thought they were doing us a favour, you can imagine what those four days were like."

Perhaps A Bummer was indeed doing them a favour. There is certainly no suggestion Bummer behaved im*properly, or even discourte*ously. Bummer does not have to justify her decision at all. *And it is not Bummer's fault* that the word of a junior civil servant is more immutable law than that of any high court judge, subject to no appeal whatever. This is a legacy of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993: *Michael Howard was the* chief begetter, with some help from his predecessor, the *saintly Kenneth Clarke*. Labour has made some changes to the act, but not to this bit.

A Bummer pointed out a passage in a letter from Steve to Marketa, which appeared

> Marketa was allowed to come in for four days pending deportation

to imply that she might be in*tending to stay. Steve says he* can prove this was written before he had been advised by the British Embassy in Prague what the law was. The embassy advised that a stay of up to six months was not a problem. They followed that advice.

"We're two people who want to be together — no burden on anyone else, no shady dealings whatever — who are refused that possibility. And I have absolutely no rights *whatever. Marketa heard* other people filling out their landing cards and saying to each other, 'Give me the name of a hotel', people who know nothing about anything except how to screw the system. We did it honestly, and *we got screwed.*"

Steve has no obvious next move. The regulations have been relaxed by *Labour* but they do not cover this case. He cannot marry Marketa because he is not yet divorced. She cannot come as a fiancée, for the same reason. They cannot apply as a common-law couple because they have been together three years, which is not long enough.

He cannot marry Marketa *because he cannot afford to* get divorced while he does not have a job, and cannot even claim unemployment benefit because he has been away so long. He has to stay here now to look for work. Marketa's passport is marked, and so she requires special permission to visit, which she is extremely unlikely to get. In the meantime, their relationship is in obvious jeopardy, and Steve is distraught.

Matters arising:

1. The rule seems to be this: *Say you want to stay four* days, they let you stay six months; say you want to stay *three months, and they let* you stay four days.

2. There is something Steve *could do. He could apply for* judicial review. However, that only applies if the decision could be proved unlawful or irrational. But the law in this case is whatever one junior civil servant thinks. You would have to prove the civil servant was insane. And we don't even know A Bummer's real name.

3. Franz Kafka came from Prague. He is believed to be dead. But he might be at Heathrow Terminal Two.

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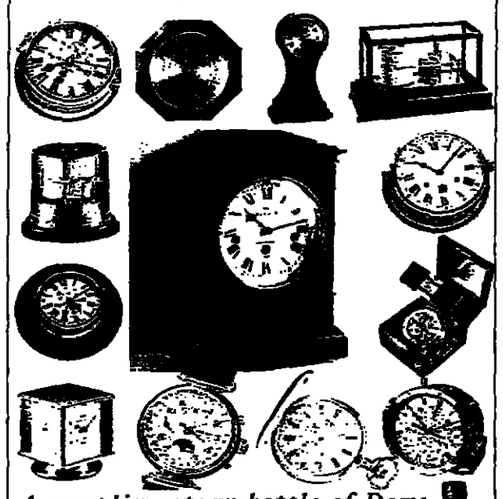

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The Guardian Saturday January 17 1998

Of prima donnas and plain speaking

His first act as chairman of the Royal Opera House was to deliver a pithy homily on dress. LISA BUCKINGHAM charts the rise of business builder Sir Colin Southgate

Danger aria . . . Sir Colin Southgate, used to dealing with prima donnas at EMI, expresses himself with vigour

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD MILDENHALL

IT is almost worth it for the headlines — Man Who Discovers Spice Girls To Run Royal Opera. Well, what a giggle . . . letting a pop music fan get his hands on those elitists at Covent Garden.

Even if the recent shenanigans of parliamentary condemnation and boardroom departures had been overlooked, the backstage shambles presided over by the former Channel 4 boss, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, was broadcast as part of the excruciatingly embarrassing fly-on-the-wall series The House. Now what the musical luvvies of Bow Street really really want is some serious management.

Enter Sir Colin Southgate, a man with a management reputation quite commensurate with the global standing of EMI, the huge record and music publishing business where he is chairman.

And what an entrance. Sir Colin managed to spark outrage with his first public statement. Yes, he does go to the opera a dozen or so times a year, but wouldn't dream of paying when there are corporate seats available. And while it is all very well to talk about opera for the masses, the reality is that neither he nor most others ready to shell out up to £180 a ticket would want to sit next to "somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers".

The down-to-earth approach which sometimes verges on the intrepid is all part of Sir Colin's style. He has been rich enough to be able to speak his mind for years.

But his impatience with inaccuracies in the Press is likely to be tested. Already he is credited with "discovering" the Spice Girls — a very, very nice little earner for EMI which he has described as "sex on ten legs", but which is no more his personal discovery than was penicillin. Equally fatuous is the attempt to dismiss the man who runs one of the world's most catholic music empires as someone who doesn't know his Arnold from his Elgar. It is, however, his ability to run a business with revenues of £62 million a year that will be on trial at the Royal Opera House.

This is admittedly small beer compared with EMI, which is valued by the stock market at £3.7 billion and which has income of £3,400 million a year. But Covent Garden certainly ranks in the same superleague as EMI in terms of its concentration of prima donnas.

"That's where his charm will come in," comments a former business associate, who describes Sir Colin as "one of the best one-to-one communicators I've ever met". Former employees report that he could sometimes be heard shouting and screaming in the boardroom and that he could be extremely petulant. Yet other associates say he inspires loyalty.

Certainly, he is no stranger to controversy. He managed to retain a reputation for corporate governance probity during his chairmanship of PowerGen, when executives around him were creating a national furore by cashing in their windfall share options. Sir Colin walked a delicate line between supporting the executives, but making it clear he believed options should be held for the long term. And his time at EMI has given him great experience of handling giant egos. It is, however, possible to question how deep Sir Colin's bluff — "swears like a trooper", "likes a drink" — appearance actually runs. Asked by an interviewer from The Times in 1992 why he did not appear in Who's Who, he expressed disdain: "I didn't fill it in because it's a waste of bloody time." Yet in the very next edition there was "Southgate, Sir Colin Grieve", the newly-knighted boss of Thorn EMI.

It is not the only occasion on which Sir Colin has been accused of volte-face. Although he unquestionably masterminded the dramatic streamlining of Thorn EMI and its dissection, those with longer memories will recall that lighting was also supposed to be staying as a core business until, that is, it was sold to the management. This is adaptability — or a string of U-turns.

And although his business reputation has come under scrutiny, following the lacklustre performance of both parts of the former Thorn EMI, it was only about four years back that a newspaper as supportive as the Daily Telegraph dared to suggest: "Sir Colin's reputation as a tough strategist who can build businesses is being amended. Some now see an opportunist with a convincing approach to public relations."

His is not a rags-to-riches tale — his parents were solidly middle class. Originally he was to be an actuary, but after a chat in a pub the young Southgate joined computer business ICT, the forerunner of ICL, and met his future wife Sally who, by lucky coincidence, was the daughter of the chairman, Sir Colin Mead. They now have four grown-up children, but another gratifying by-product of the relationship was that he and his father-in-law launched Software Sciences.

It is this enterprise which is the backbone of Sir Colin's reputation as an entrepreneur. The business was sold to BOC, then to Thorn. A wealthy man, he then went off to enjoy his new-found riches.

Then 18 months later he was back at Thorn as head of its technology business. He gained the top seat in the boardroom in the twinkling of an eye. But Hugh Jenkins, one of the UK's most senior directors, who has been in the boardroom with Sir Colin ever since those early days at Thorn, said yesterday: "He is a visionary . . . but if you are running a business like EMI you have to have the ability to focus on the details of a business plan, you can't take the helicopter approach."

Jenkins defends Sir Colin's recent record at EMI even though the shares have slumped by about a third since the group was demerged — a fate which has been mirrored in the equity price of former sibling, Thorn. He says the downturn in the US music market took all major players in the industry by surprise. EMI's handling of the repercussions, he said, was as efficient as any rival.

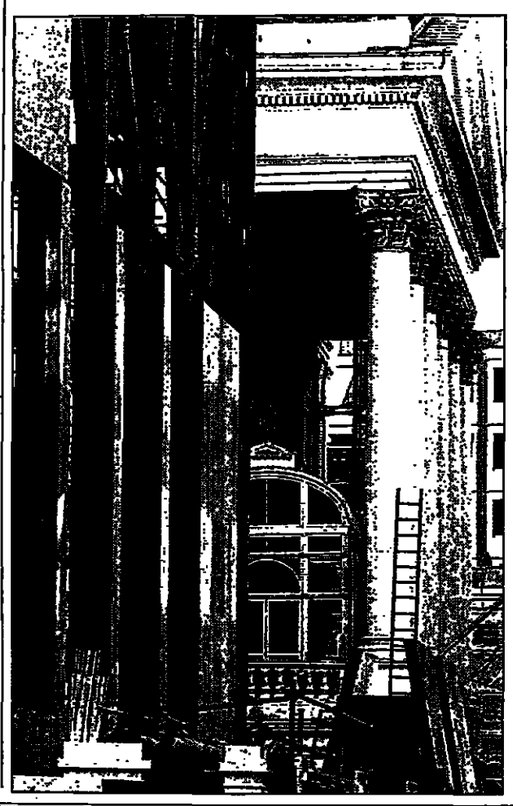
But one stockbroking analyst disagreed, saying it had been a "complete dog's dinner", and problems with retail overcapacity in the US had been wrongly overlooked.

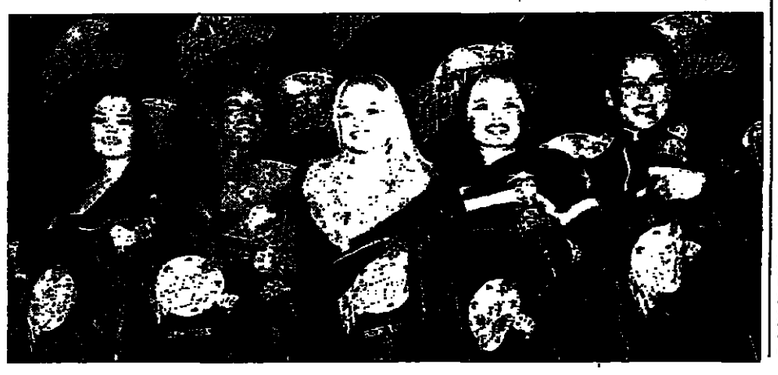
Another analyst, Nicola Stewart, has just published a research paper which effectively warns that the group could also be heading for turbulent times in another of its major markets, Japan.

And then there are the Spice Girls. On some counts this band, whose following appears to consist of preschool wannabes, is accounting for something like a tenth of the group's earnings. Girl Power income like this is of course excellent so long as it keeps on coming. But what if it stops?

This, to some unhealthy, dependence on the Spice Girls has been compounded by a less than energetic A&R capability. The company has not focused so much on new acts as on its strong back catalogue.

Sir Colin's time at EMI is clearly drawing to a close. Industry sources say he will sell the group to a larger rival — he always disingenuously insists no buyers are in the wings, but that if they were, they would have to pay top dollar — before taking his final curtain. But whether his stage is that of the global recording industry or the boards at a redeveloped Covent Garden, Sir Colin looks certain to see out his business career in a blaze of what will almost certainly be unwelcome publicity.





Scene 1: The Royal Opera House
Enter Sir Colin Southgate (sparking outrage): 'I don't want to sit next to somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers'
Scene 2: Planet Hollywood restaurant, New York
Enter the Spice Girls, 'Sex on 10 legs,' plugging their film, Spice World. Noises off: 'He is a visionary, but if you are running a business like EMI you have to have the ability to focus on the details of a business plan, you can't take the helicopter approach'

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM JENKINS and MIKE SEGAR

The spaghetti hits the fan

Mark Milner

IT'S pasta joke, you might say. Charges of "spaghettiphobia" being hurled across the floor of the Dutch parliament. Whatever is happening in, arguably, Europe's most *communautaire* capital?

The row which has riven The Hague this week centres on the Dutch finance minister, Gerrit Zalm, and his reported reservations over Italy's suitability to join the first wave of monetary union.

Mr Zalm denies saying that he would quit if Italy was allowed in first time round. However, subsequent comments to the effect that the criteria for single currency membership should be applied strictly and "without geographic or historical prejudice" can hardly have been described as pouring oil on troubled waters.

Italy has no chance of making the debt levels laid down in the Maastricht treaty — though it is not alone in that.

The storm, which has embarrassed the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, is likely to enliven Dutch domestic politics where a general election will be held early in May. Opinion polls put Mr Zalm's rightwing VVD party close behind Mr Kok's social democratic party. Mr Zalm may well feel that insisting the guilder — a rock among European currencies — can only be given up for an equally robust euro will play well with a domestic audience.

Any Dutch fears about the future of currency union will not have been eased by the French campaign to instal Banque de France governor Jean-Claude Trichet as the first president of the European Central Bank.

The French move, which has not played well in northern Europe, has particular resonance in the Netherlands. Until Mr Trichet's name emerged, the former governor of the Dutch central bank and current head of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), Wim Duisenberg, was regarded as a virtual certainty to become the first head of the ECB.

Dutch voters are not the only ones listening. Europe's financial markets are keeping an ear cocked too.

So far the markets are working on the comfortable assumption that monetary union will happen on time, that 11 of the European Union's 15 members will sign up first time round and that the euro will be strong and stable. But then, in 1992, the markets worked on comfortable assumptions about currency convergence via the exchange rate mechanism until Bundesbank interest rate policy suddenly illuminated the flaws in their thinking. Black Wednesday followed.

Certainly the financial markets will not be happy if they feel the presidency of the ECB is decided on the basis of a political stitch-up, sorry, compromise. Deciding who will sit beside the president on the ECB's executive council will also provide plenty of opportunity for the kind of horse-trading which will undermine the credibility of the bank's claims to independence.

The complex exercise of deciding which countries will qualify — with the European Commission, EMI, European parliament and EU finance ministers all getting a chance to make their views known, before the final decision is taken at the beginning of May, will mean plenty of scope for politically motivated squabbles to unsettle the markets.

For make no mistake, politics counts. The process of monetary union with a start date of January 1, 1999 is politically driven. Economics has been consigned to the back seat. Just ask Europe's unemployed.

But the primacy of politics means that progress towards the single currency is as vulnerable to intra and inter-governmental rows as monetary union itself will be to economic shocks once it is in place. And rows there will be.

Whether he suffers from spaghettiphobia or monetarist rigour Mr Zalm's qualms will not be the only ones.

For make no mistake,

Wim Kok

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Wealthy to turn backs on Africa

Charlotte Denny

THE world's richest nations are set to scupper a flagship international deal to rescue the most impoverished countries in Africa from debt, after a bitter squabble over who should pay the final $350 million (£215 million) to bail out Mozambique.

Aid agencies fear that the much-touted Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative will collapse next week unless the stand-off between the Paris Club of creditor nations and the two big global development funds is resolved.

But leaked documents from the World Bank reveal that James Wolfensohn, president of the Bank, and Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, have both written strongly worded letters to members of the club to persuade them to be more generous to Mozambique, one of the world's poorest nations. The club will be discussing Mozambique's debt next Wednesday.

Paris Club rules limit loan write-offs to 80 per cent, not enough to get Mozambique's debt down to a sustainable level. The extra funding required — $350 million — is small compared to the billions which international bodies and western nations have provided to deal with the crisis in Asia.

Three countries have qualified so far for relief under the scheme which was set up in 1996, but Mozambique is the first whose debts exceed the club's rules. Kevin Watkins, of Oxfam, warns that many of the other 20 or so countries qualifying for debt relief need write-offs in excess of the club's 80 per cent threshold.

"If they can't reach agreement on Mozambique the entire debt initiative is dead in the water," said Mr Watkins. "It's a bit of a spectacle — 15 of the world's richest countries squabbling over a debt relief package for one of the world's poorest countries while they are pouring billions into South-east Asia."

Some member countries which have opposed the debt reduction programme from the beginning are believed to be dragging their feet in the hope that the Bank and the IMF will step in and cover the shortfall.

But the leaked World Bank letter reveals that the Bank and the IMF think the Paris Club is welching on a deal under which creditors agreed to shoulder their fair share of the debt write off. Last year's Asian bail-outs have stretched both bodies' loan commitments to the limit, and Oxfam says neither body has extra resources to commit to HIPC.

Oxfam names Germany, Japan and Italy as the Paris Club countries most hostile to providing the extra funding for Mozambique. Britain, a long-time champion of debt relief, supports bending the rules in this case but is missing backup from the US whose attention is focused on the Asian crisis.

The leaked World Bank document, agreed jointly with the IMF, warns that any delay could "increase doubts among outside observers about the resolve of the international community to deal with this difficult but deserving case".

The seriousness of the deadlock is indicated by the united front from the Bank and the IMF which have not always agreed about the importance of debt relief. "They believe this is a test case," said Mr Watkins. "If it doesn't go through, the credibility of HIPC is shot."

WTO chief warns of trade crisis

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

ASIA'S financial crisis could foster protectionist sentiment and provoke a 1930s-style slump unless governments react by redoubling efforts to keep open their markets, the director-general of the World Trade Organisation warned yesterday.

Renato Ruggiero said the situation — the first test of the new global economy — was serious enough, but warned that the greater danger was that economic policymakers would make errors that could extend the difficulties.

"Nowhere is this risk more real than in the area of international trade," he said.

"Turning inward in the 1930s in response to financial crisis . . . helped drive the world into economic depression and then world war. If this taught us nothing else it is that financial crises can rise and fall quickly but trade crises have a more lasting and damaging impact."

Speaking at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Mr Ruggiero said devaluations of Asian currencies would increase exports, from the region. But imports of East Asian countries would shrink because of slowing growth and declining purchasing power.

The trade balances of advanced nations, such as the US, Japan and Europe, would be squeezed from both directions.

Mr Ruggiero expressed confidence that the system of international trade rules was robust enough to prevent a free fall into protectionism.

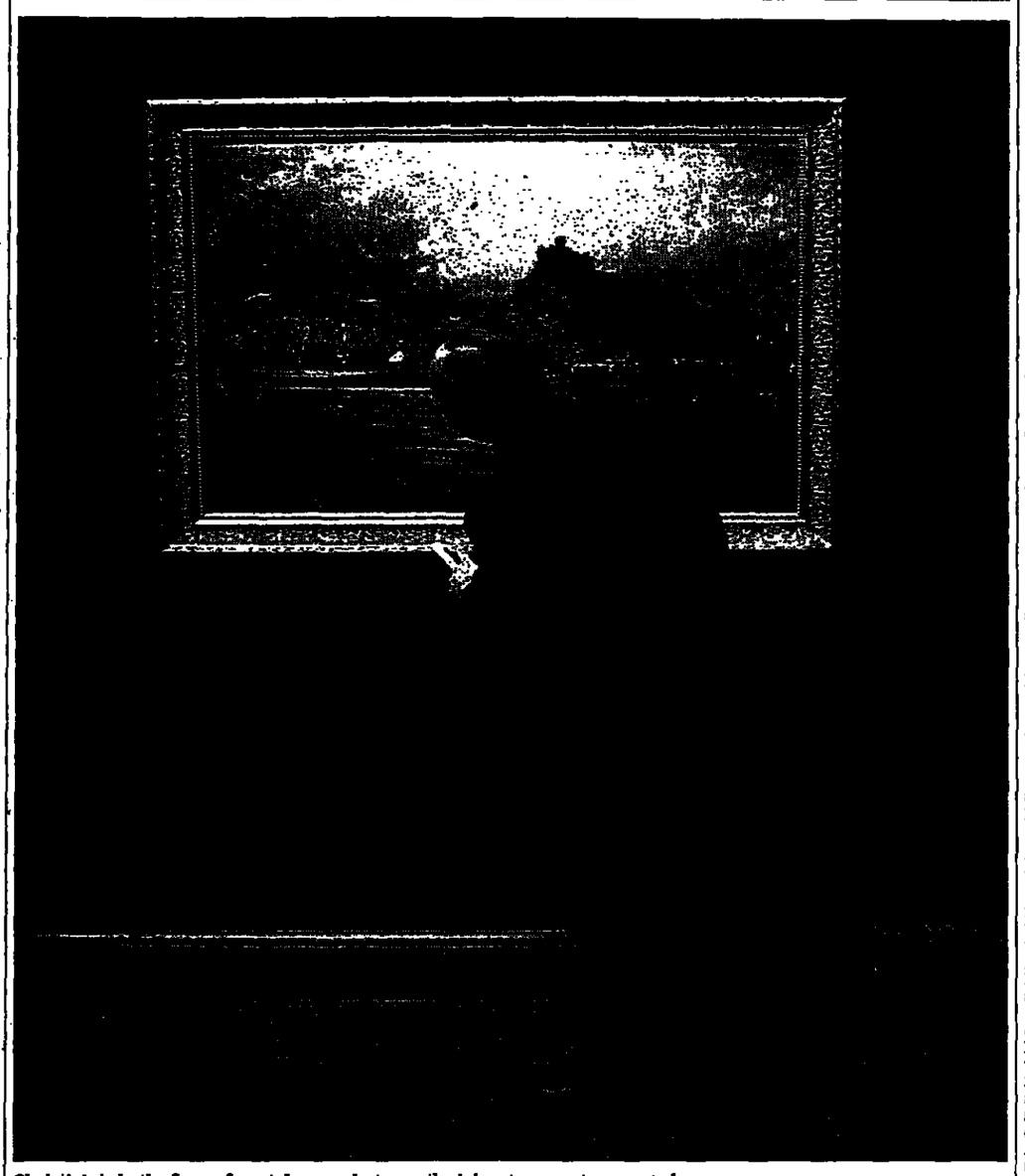
But he warned against more subtle measures such as anti-dumping duties and other import barriers and also made a case for China and Russia to be admitted to the WTO. "This would enhance the WTO's ability to provide a stable foundation for the global trading system, particularly during times of economic distress," he said.

● Japan's benchmark stock index soared yesterday, breaking the 16,000 mark for the first time in a month, after reports that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is proposing revaluing property assets at market prices.

The proposal is aimed at helping debt-laden banks strengthen their capital ratios and encouraging them to lend, the Nihon Keizai newspaper reported. Banks and companies would be allowed to reassess real-estate holdings at current value rather than at purchase price, without having to pay taxes on unrealised gains.

The Nikkei surged 924.47 points, or 6.11 per cent, to 16,046.45 — its highest since December 18.

Cost-cutting bid



Christie's is in the frame for a takeover, but says the job cuts are not connected PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Christie's staff hammered

Lisa Buckingham
City Editor

CHRISTIE'S, the international auction house, is to axe nearly 60 of its employees in an efficiency drive which executives deny has been prompted by last month's takeover approach.

The job losses — roughly 3 per cent of the 1,900-strong workforce — will fall in New York and London and will largely involve administrative employees.

A spokewoman for the company, which received a £500 million bid approach from SBC Warburg Dillon Read in December, declined to identify the cost savings Christie's hoped to achieve.

But Christie's latest annual report shows that the average cost of an employee rose by nearly 4 per cent to £35,000 in 1996. On that basis, the job losses will remove just over £2 million from the auction house's costs, which totalled £187 million in 1996.

It is understood that takeover negotiations with SBC are still running, but sources said the terms of an offer are still some way off. Although SBC has maintained it represents a group of investors, other sources suggest the investment bank is acting as a front for just one investor — Joe Lewis — the Bahamas billionaire who owns 29 per cent of the auction house's shares. Shares in Christie's were unchanged at 263p — 77p lower than the improved offer which SBC has tabled.

Interest in the global art market has increased in recent months following a series of high-profile sales which have generated revenue for the 231-year-old company and its rival, the New York-based Sotheby's.

Last spring Christie's raised $93 million from the sale of Impressionist and modern paintings from the Loeb collection, while two months ago it sold the Ganz collection, including Picassos, for $206 million. Last year Christie's outsold Sotheby's for the first time in 44 years. Sales were $1.6 billion.

But greater volatility has prompted clients to ask auction houses to take risks which could strain their balance sheets. This is the attraction for Christie's of cementing a deal at the right price with a deep-pocketed partner.

The group has escaped problems so far, however, and is expected to report record profits of £42 million, compared with £33.9 million the year before.

Creator of Caffe Uno chain to pocket £2m

Roger Cowe

SCOTT Charlesworth, managing director of the Caffe Uno chain, stands to pocket more than £2 million next year if the restaurants' success continues.

The chain's owner, City Centre Restaurants, joined catalogue retailer Argos in issuing a jobs and profits warning yesterday after disappointing Christmas takings, but said that Caffe Uno was one of its star performers. The Italian-style restaurants have done so well that the company has had to allocate £800,000 as Mr Charlesworth's share of profits, under an agreement signed when he persuaded the group to back his concept in 1993.

With more than £100,000 already due to him from 1996 and another year of the deal to run, his total share of the 46-strong chain's profits is likely to be more than £2 million, according to group finance director, John Wittich.

Christmas sales
Percentage 1997

Burton	7.0
Debenhams	8.0
Next	3.0
Boots the Chemist	5.0
Halfords	2.0
Sears*	2.0
House of Fraser*	5.0
Dixons	-4.0
Woolworth's	7.5
B&Q	14.0
Comet	1.0
Argos	-1.5

*Includes sale period

But the group's profits this year will be lower than expected because of problems at the Deep Pan Pizza chain. Mr Wittich said the pizza format had become dated. The 34 outlets on leisure parks were still trading well, but people were shunning many of the 55 high street sites. He said the group would continue to shrink the chain. "We'll look at each site and either rebrand or dispose of sites," he said.

But sales in the rest of the group, which includes Garfunkels, Chiquitos and Frankie & Benny's, were almost 6 per cent higher in December.

At Argos, pre-Christmas sales were down by 1.5 per cent, ignoring new stores. It blamed a drop in demand for toys, jewellery, watches and electrical products. The company's share price fell by 13 per cent on the news.

More than 100 head office staff and 130 warehouse workers will be made redundant as Argos pushes for cost savings. The redundancy cost, together with other one-off costs, will cut profits this year by £7 million. But the company said it was forging ahead with store expansion, which would create 1,000 jobs this year.

Five pension mis-sellers face fines over failure to resolve fiasco

Teresa Hunter

FIVE large firms of independent financial advisers face the threat of fines and public reprimands after failing to meet deadlines set by the Government for resolving the pensions scandal.

Burns Anderson Independent, Countrywide Independent, DBS Financial, Financial Options and IFA Network, were the only firms to be singled out by the Personal Investment Authority yesterday for missing the December 31 deadline.

But the Association of British Insurers added five more names of leading insurance companies to the list of firms which failed to comply with the timetable of Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, for compensating victims.

Gan, Guardian Royal Exchange, Reliance Mutual, Sun Life of Canada and Royal Liver were not criticised by the PIA because the watchdog accepted they had taken considerable steps to meet the deadline.

However, Ms Liddell warned the financial advisers that they must now expect disciplinary action following their failures and she issued a broadside to the rest of the industry that pressure to clear up the scandal would not be relaxed. She said: "The first deadline has now passed and most of the large firms appear to have met it. Those who have not must face the consequences.

"The industry still has a huge task ahead of it as no company has yet resolved all its priority cases. There will be no let up from the Government or the regulators until this has been achieved."

The PIA has imposed 47 fines relating to the pensions review so far, totalling more than £2 million. DBS Financial Management has already been fined £425,000, while Friends Provident was fined £450,000 last September.

Saturday Notebook

Stopping slump must be Bank's new obsession

Alex Brummer

THE determination of Labour leaders to establish their credentials as competent economic managers was an overriding concern in opposition and has been followed through in government. Gordon Brown has ushered in an even more cautious fiscal policy than was promised before the election and turned interest rate policy over to the hawks in the Bank of England.

This, the Government believes, has given it the stability it needs to embark on its contentious plans to update Beveridge. But there are risks in such an approach. These are not that the Tories or even Old Labour will eventually overwhelm the reform plans, but that the Blair government — like almost every other administration since the second world war — will be overcome by global events.

In much the same way as the fate of Harold Wilson was determined by the 1967 devaluation of the pound, Jim Callaghan by the 1976 loan from the International Monetary Fund and John Major by Britain's 1992 ejection from the Exchange Rate Mechanism, so Mr Brown needs to be ever-vigilant of uncontrollable economic developments. There are already three worrying spectres: the strong sterling exchange rate; the turmoil in Asia and events surrounding the start-up of the euro.

Mr Brown has done much more than his Labour predecessors to innoculate the Government from such events. He has delivered an austere fiscal policy in which one measure alone, the abolition of tax credits for pensions schemes, will deliver £11.7 billion of income over 2½ years, helping to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement to £4 billion by April 1999.

CONTRAST this, those close to Mr Brown say, to the political volanco that erupted when one of his predecessors, Norman Lamont, increased VAT on fuel — raising a mere £800 million. Similarly, Mr Brown's expensive programmes for putting youth and the long-term unemployed back to work have been fully funded in advance from a windfall tax which was imposed without attracting the opprobrium of business or legal challenges from the utilities.

This indicates a degree of political skill for which Mr Brown had not been fully credited. Moreover, if crisis does come, the UK will at least head into it with the public spending hatches battened down and with a relatively stable fiscal position.

Monetary policy and its direct link to the exchange rate ought to be a much greater source of concern to Mr Brown. Technically this is now beyond the Government's domain — except in the case of dire emergency — because responsibility for it rests with the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. But this is not proving an entirely comfortable process.

A reading of the newly published minutes of the December MPC meeting does not fill one with confidence. This meeting of some of the smartest economic brains in the country, briefed to the gills, came to the stunning conclusion that it is "very difficult to assess whether levels of activity were currently at, above, or below the sustainable trends".

IT was on the basis of such uncertainties, together with monetary data which the MPC found "was not completely clear", that it was decided, for the moment at least, to hold base rates at 7.25 per cent.

The science of keeping inflation below the 2.5 per cent range, despite all the analysis, is hit and miss. Indeed, the worry about the analysis being done is that the process has become over-intellectualised, and basic judgment — of the kind exercised by the Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan in the US — is being constrained.

It is difficult to believe, for instance, that a policymaker with the market experience of the Bank of England's governor, Eddie George, does not have a distinct view on the seriousness of the Asian crisis in the same way as Mr Greenspan does. If he does, it is not forcefully represented in the monetary policy minutes.

Mr Brown and those around him need to take their eyes off their long-term goals for the moment and think about how the short-term could undermine their stability objectives. It is increasingly obvious that at this stage of the economic cycle the pound should be falling, not rising; yet in the latest trading sessions it was close to three German marks and also firm against the dollar.

The likelihood is that as the UK moves towards monetary union, the "safe haven" effect could continue to distort the value of sterling, delivering a sharp blow to exporters already struggling from a 25 per cent loss of competitiveness since the pound began its surge. Add to this the loss of Asian markets and income for UK firms, and the odds of the slowdown expected this year turning into a full blown recession increases.

As has been the case in the US and to a certain extent Germany, the UK needs to put out a clear signal to the markets that interest rates have peaked and are now on hold, or likely to fall in the foreseeable future.

The Chancellor is allowed views on this, even if he does not control the policy instruments. But, more important, the Bank of England needs to adjust its perspective for a more deflationary and unsettled environment.

Unions fear new pay restraint

Mark Atkinson and Seumas Milne

PUBLIC sector unions hit back last night as the signals increased from the Treasury that Gordon Brown is preparing to confront them over pay, heightening concern that they are being set up as sacrificial lambs to demonstrate the case for wage restraint.

Pay review bodies covering doctors, dentists, nurses, senior civil servants and teachers are due to deliver their recommendations for 1998-1999 next week.

But as the Chancellor's spin doctors were last night rumoured to be preparing to soften the blow of a likely squeeze of public sector pay, Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of the giant union Unison, warned that public service workers would not tolerate further downward pressure on their living standards.

"They can't have it all ways," he said. "The rich are still getting richer and the poor poorer — and if the economy is in good shape, what better time is there for the Government to tackle some of the most deserving cases?"

In an unusually sharp aside, he called for an open discussion about the choices facing the public sector — rather than more "briefings in bars or shots across the bows in the media".

Independent pay analysts say the review bodies are likely to suggest an average rise of at least 3.6 per cent — equivalent to the headline rate of inflation when they were drawing up their reports last autumn.

While awards of that size may be acceptable to the Government, there is concern that it may seek to cushion the impact on the public finances by implementing them in stages.

But even if it implements the increases in one go from April they are unlikely to be high enough to satisfy doctors and teachers, both seeking double-digit increases.

A spokesman for the British Medical Association said doctors had fallen down the pay league and were now some 50 per cent below where they were 18 years ago.

"We have asked for a catching-up award of at least 10 per cent a year over the next five years," said the spokesman.

An award at that level would hit morale and increase recruitment problems in general practice, he added. "The crisis will just continue and the NHS will suffer."

Sarah Miller, of pay experts Income Data Services, said: "In his Pre-Budget Report the Chancellor talked about the importance of hitting the 2.5 per cent inflation target and hinted that that will be the Government's unofficial pay policy. But it seems fairly likely that the review bodies will recommend more than 2.5 per cent because they have always used the headline rate of inflation as their benchmark in the past."

Task force attacks scandal of fake drugs

JULIA FINCH on a counterfeiting scam with fatal consequences

THE world's biggest drugs companies are jointly funding an international task force in an attempt to clamp down on the spread of counterfeit branded drugs which have left thousands of people in developing countries sick and dying, according to a US television news programme to be shown tomorrow.

The fake drugs and vaccines, which cost the drug companies millions in lost profits, are widely available in poorer countries. In one case cited by the CBS news show 60 Minutes, a counterfeit meningitis vaccine was given to 600,000 people in Niger. The programme says "many hundreds" later contracted the disease and either died or suffered permanent brain damage.

It claims the world's top 20 drug companies are now working together to investigate the distribution of fake medicines in poor countries. The Pharmaceutical Security Institute will try to uncover the underground network of manufacturers and traders who produce and supply the counterfeits.

Yesterday a spokeswoman for Glaxo refused to confirm whether the UK drugs firm is a member of the PSI and said the company preferred to work with national governments. But she admitted counterfeiting was "a serious problem" and "an unacceptable threat to patients' lives".

SmithKline Beecham, manufacturers of the blockbuster Augmentin antibiotic, confirmed it was a founder member of the PSI. A spokesman for the company said SKB "takes every step possible to minimise the risk of our products being copied".

The dud meningitis vaccine administered in Niger was a copy of an SKB vaccine and it was the company's own policing efforts that alerted the World Health Organisation.

The findings of the US TV programme come less than a year after an investigation sponsored by the European Commission found drugs counterfeiting to be one of the 10 most worrying forms of hi-tech crime.

Counterfeiting — from fake fashion labels to pirate CDs and perfume — is a massive, rapidly-growing business, estimated to total more than $250 billion (£150 billion), or 5 per cent of world trade.

Last November, Martijn Ten Ham, chief of the WHO's drug safety unit, said medicines used for treating infectious disease were the ones most often faked and that billions of dollars worth of drugs were involved. Two-thirds, it believes, are manufactured in developing countries.

The WHO has found fake pharmaceuticals in 28 countries and has connected their use to 500 deaths in Nigeria, Bangladesh, India, Argentina and Haiti. Dr Ten Ham said: "In the majority of counterfeiting cases there is no, or very little, active ingredient in the drug. That means the disease is under-treated or not treated at all."

A Ghanaian pharmacist told the 60 Minutes investigation that an Indian drug counterfeiter offered to sell him weakened anti-malaria tablets for a fifth of the price of the branded alternative.

In some cases lethal ingredients are used. A conference on counterfeiting held in Bordeaux last year heard that a fake branded cough medicine, which contained an industrial solvent, had caused 3,000 deaths in Africa.

Rich to scupper African debt deal, page 10

Sir Colin stages dramatic entrance, page 11

FinanceGuardian

Bank-busting bravado . . . Flanked by tearful co-founder Francis Leung, Peregrine Investments Holdings' chairman, Philip Tose (right), performed with characteristic élan at a press conference given 'to explain what had gone wrong'. He complained that First National Bank of Chicago, one of Peregrine's principal creditors, had backed away from 'promised' new credit. He later retracted the remark

PHOTOGRAPHS: VINCENT YU

He stooped to conquer

ANDREW HIGGINS on the predator who set the style for Peregrine, the crashed Hong Kong investment bank

WHEN jittery financiers in Hong Kong began whispering late last year that the former British colony's premier home-grown investment bank was in trouble, Peregrine Investments Holdings took swift action to correct the crisis: it hired some private detectives to hunt down and silence the doom-mongers.

Named after the predatory falcon and with a style to match, Peregrine placed advertisements in the newspapers to deny the rumours. Its chairman, Philip Tose, dismissed them as the work of envious rivals. The only real problem, said Tose, a former Formula 3 racing car driver, was that its success had made Peregrine a "company that people love to hate".

Fortified by private investigators, aggressive lawyers and swashbuckling self-confidence, he pushed an American bank into apologising for "rumour-mongering". A few weeks later, Peregrine announced that a Swiss insurance company, Zurich Group, would pump in $200 million (£124 million). The deal smacked of an emergency bail-out. Tose again insisted that all was well: "This is not a rescue."

Such robust defiance befits a man who has long expressed admiration for Asia's more intolerant and truth-phobic leaders. Indonesia's President Suharto, the Chinese and Vietnamese Communist parties and the junta in Burma; Tose has done business with them all.

But no more. Peregrine has crashed to earth, its fate sealed by a last-minute decision by the Zurich Group to call off its rescue mission.

Last Monday, after months of doggedly pursuing the alleged rumour-mongers, Peregrine's lawyer, Alan Mercer, issued a terse statement: "The company has taken preliminary legal steps in the preparation of an application for liquidation." In other words, Peregrine Investments had had gone bust.

The next day, Tose appeared in public to try to explain what had gone wrong. Flanked by tearful co-founder Francis Leung and the newly-appointed liquidator, he performed with characteristic bravado. He complained that First National Bank of Chicago, one of Peregrine's principal creditors, had backed away from "promised" new credit. He later retracted the remark in a statement acknowledging that First Chicago had made no such promise.

Asked about an enormous loan to Steady Safe, an Indonesian taxi company with ties to President Suharto's family, he snapped: "I believe you are really missing the point here." He described the Indonesian deal as "unfortunate" but said the blame for Peregrine's demise lay elsewhere. "What happened was a complete meltdown in a country."

But it is not merely a country that has melted down. Reckless growth, cronyism, corruption and secrecy have turned the region's economic miracle into a mirage and transformed the prophets of "Asian values" into the architects of disaster. An entire philosophy has crumbled.

Tose, like the courtiers who crowd the corridors of power in many Asian capitals, invested his faith and cash — and that of his shareholders — in the primacy of what Chinese call *guanxi*, or connections. He saw himself as a buccaneer who could cut corners and make a deal with the insiders. The decision to grant Steady Safe $260 million in an unsecured bridging loan marked a disastrous culmination of this approach.

Tose delegated extensive powers to the head of Peregrine's bonds department, André Lee, a French Korean who started by selling sewing machines in New York. Lee has been cast as the scapegoat in the saga. But it was the culture of Peregrine, nurtured by Asia's boom-era mentality, that not only tolerated but also encouraged his mistakes.

Peregrine had bet before, on Burma and Vietnam — and came unstuck in both when trusted connections turned out to be crooks. But the sums there were small.

Why Peregrine decided to gamble so much on Steady Safe is baffling.

The Indonesian firm had bold and, at the height of the boom, even plausible plans to build an empire embracing ferries, highways and railways. Tose admitted to a weakness for grandiosity to Hong Kong's South China Morning Post. "I love dreaming. And I have a very expensive wife." His Hong Kong Chinese spouse is a glamorous socialite.

Still more seductive than Steady Safe's business fantasies were its connections. Among its investors is President Suharto's eldest daughter, Siti Hardijanti Rukmana.

The one asset it really needed, however, was absent. It had no way to pay back Peregrine Investments. All its revenue comes from taxi fares paid in rupiah. When the Indonesia currency collapsed, any slim hope of Peregrine recovering its cash evaporated. The Zurich Group took fright and fled.

A SENIOR investment banker at a major US firm in Hong Kong remarked: "The concept of lending these guys $260 million is positively mind-blowing. Doing business on the basis of *guanxi* is looking pretty discredited. It is time to rewrite the whole play-book."

By investing in Indonesia, though, Tose put his money where his mouth is. A fierce critic of Hong Kong's last British governor, Chris Patten, Tose despises western liberals and regards Asian despotism as the true dynamo of the region's growth. "The results speak for themselves," he said, dismissing the Philippines after Marcos as a "basket-case" and hailing the economic triumphs of "strong government, some would call it dictatorship".

When the Harvard Business School met in Hong Kong last year, he caused a stir by suggesting that the US had suffered economically from the civil rights legislation that helped give a political voice to blacks.

Peregrine later denied that its chairman had intended any racial slur. Harvard disassociated itself from his comments, in which he had also attacked India's democracy.

Like much of Asia, Tose is in a hurry, and has little time for debate. He loves speed. Indeed, until a car crash in 1968, he intended to make his name as a racing driver. The accident forced a career change but no deceleration in his ambitions. He became a stockbroker in his father's firm, Vickers da Costa, and moved to Hong Kong to set up an office there. Almost alone among British brokers, he realised that the power of the cosy colonial trading houses was waning, and set out to cultivate an emerging Chinese business élite. Among those he impressed was Li Ka-shing, now the territory's second-richest tycoon.

After setting up Peregrine in 1989 with Francis Leung, Tose began wooing the Communist Party in Beijing. While other businessmen panicked or retreated in disgust after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, Peregrine jumped in with gusto. "We recognised that Tiananmen — while a tragedy — was a huge opportunity," he told the Hong Kong press.

"Naturally, Francis and I sat down and said to ourselves, 'What does this mean?' We were absolutely convinced this in no way would change China's role model for economic development."

His eagerness to please made many cringe. At a conference attended by foreign businessmen and Communist Party officials in Beijing in 1996, he began his speech by announcing that he had a one-word message for China's leaders: "Congratulations!" Party cadres beamed with delight.

A year earlier, he had come to the rescue of a senior Chinese bureaucrat flummoxed by a pointed question about the chaotic state of Chinese stock markets. Tose put his arm around the bewildered official and announced that Peregrine had complete faith in China's markets.

THE fawning paid handsome dividends. Peregrine became China's favourite investment bank in Hong Kong. Leung was "Mr Red Chip", the impressario of a drive by mainland Chinese firms to secure listings on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

"Life is about winning." Tose told Asia Inc, a Hong Kong-based business magazine, shortly before Peregrine plummeted from the heavens. "There is no point to competing unless you have the will to win."

He repeated much the same sentiment to the now jobless staff this week as liquidators swarmed through Peregrine's offices, trying to make an inventory of the wreckage. He urged them to "keep alive the Peregrine spirit".

Staff had other things on their minds: "What spirit? I just had to fire a whole department," said one imminently redundant manager.

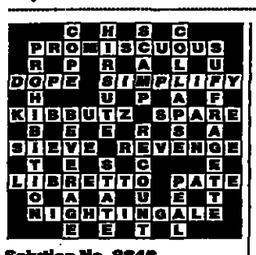
"Fortunately, Hong Kong Telecom has not caught on yet, so everyone can still use the phones to ask about getting another job. I think Philip is still in denial."

He is not alone.

Doorstepped . . . Investors at Peregrine's offices after Zurich Group took fright

It is not just a country that has melted down. Reckless growth, cronyism, corruption and secrecy have turned a miracle into a mirage and transformed the prophets of 'Asian values' into the architects of disaster. An entire philosophy has crumbled

Quick Crossword No. 8647



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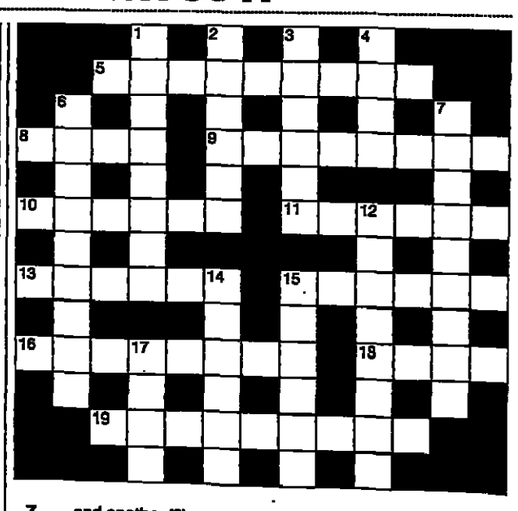

Across

5 Evidence (9)
8 Threesome (4)
9 US national game (8)
10 Scant (6)
11 Delay — arrest (6)
13 Coming — before Christmas (6)
15 Cattle pen (6)
16 Collar bone (8)
18 Expectant (4)
19 Whirlpool (9)

Down

1 Reserve — expedient (8)
2 Fast — horses (6)
3 Diverted (6)
4 Slight — insult (4)
6 Large reptile . . . (9)
7 . . . and another (9)
12 Bullfighter (8)
14 Try — to prevent a try? (6)
15 Originate (6)
17 Calf meat (4)

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The Guardian
the week
Saturday January 17 1998

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN ARGLES

Vision for our future

Reinventing Labour was a huge challenge. Now Tony Blair has taken on an even bigger task. He talks to **Hugo Young** about why we must transform our idea of what the state can do for us

THE Prime Minister cannot think why anyone should imagine he intends, through welfare reform, to damage a single needy person anywhere in the land. He is utterly, and genuinely, incredulous. "This idea that we're going to start harming people who are seriously disabled, or in wheelchairs or something, is ludicrous," he says. "I didn't come into politics to do that."

I feel the fume of his disbelief perhaps especially because the Guardian, he contends, has done its bit to give the opposite impression. The main reason why disabled people and other benefits recipients are worried, he thinks, is because of scare-story propaganda that has filled the gap, the yawning chasm, that will only at some time later this year, if then, be loaded with the full specifics of reform. The void, in which he admits the debate is beginning, should be left undefiled by leak or rumour.

This is a methodological problem to which we will return. For the debate, it turns out, starts from a premise which reveals another zone of incredulity: that anyone can ask any questions about what is going on without putting at risk their reputation for good sense.

We had a swift, jousting conversation in Downing Street, just before Mr Blair boarded the train to start the welfare roadshow in the West Midlands. It showed him in all the unfreighted innocence, the wide-eyed rationality, the untroubled self-belief, and the refusal to succumb with the slightest tremor of caution to the sacred cows of old socialist argument, which got him where he is today. What agonises the Labour Party — what would startle all his predecessors, living and dead — appears barely to touch him. He cannot take seriously the notion that the welfare state is in need of anything other than radical reform.

So he has begun the teaching process. "I want to take the case to the people, face the hard questions and soak up some of the criticism," he said. "People can hear from me direct, without distortion." He wanted to "get them to first base", prove that this was "not a piece of political machismo," "not a redundant, or foolish, or irrelevant battle, but actually important."

Its importance lies only partly in the exploding welfare budget. He can't deny that Britain hovers somewhere around 15th in the world league table for social security spending, though there are different ways of counting. Considered on its own, the level of spend, and even of future spend, can be exaggerated into a crisis. But that, in any case, is not his point. His point is that the costs and benefits of all this spending, nearly £100 billion, are so grotesquely ill-matched as to be a scandal any new government must attend to.

Blair reels off a number of statements that define the basic problem as he sees it, the platform planks from which he starts.

"If you look at the way the system operates today, it doesn't very often get help to those that need it, and we carry on spending more and more on it, and we don't have the services that we require. It seems to me sensible to see if we can organise it better."

Or: "There must be something wrong with a system in which the spending has rocketed, so social security is far and away where spending is rising most, and rose most under the Tories, in circumstances where poverty has gone up, and the bottom 20 per cent of the population has seen their share of the benefits drop."

Or: "I think what is helpful is for people to focus on whether the system is serving either of its two tasks. Is it helping people who are genuinely in need? And is it helping people who can work, to work?"

He seems to believe quite passionately that the system, as it stands, is helping far fewer people than it should. Not too many, but too few. Yet surely, I suggest, it is axiomatic that, in order to help more of the people who need it, the benefits system will have to be withdrawn from some people.

This takes us into the first delicate minefield. "We have to wait and see," the Prime Minister said.

But if it's to be more selective, it surely follows that some people will no longer get their present benefits? After all, everyone agrees that not everybody needs what they're getting.

What agonises the Labour Party appears barely to touch him

"Yes," he replied, "but it depends how you make the change. We perceive that the structure of the system must certainly change. Exactly how that's done, that is the question."

So you aren't even prepared to say that some people are going to be losers?

"Well, some people may be winners. Let's wait and see the final set of proposals that we come up with."

That was not a glib, or even a wholly evasive, answer. At the bottom of it, I think, is the truth which in Blair's mind drives a lot of what he is doing. There's a real sense that everything which now unfolds, whatever its details, will be for the greatest good of the greatest number — indeed, the entire number — of the population. This carries it far above dreary questions of accountancy and even above the little business of what benefit levels actually are. It has to do with social, even moral, improvements from which nobody will be exempt.

First of all, it will address the very purpose of life. I put it to the Prime Minister that he was driven by a certain view of society — about the work ethic, about more people being locked into the gross domestic product, about wanting people to be doing things because it's good for their souls and good for their lives not to be dependent.

"I subscribe to that a 100 per cent," he replied vigorously. "To have a group of people set apart from society's mainstream, dependent on low levels of benefit, is not healthy for them or for the country."

Equally philanthropic was the relief it might be possible to give such people from pressures to commit fraud. Reformers, including Blair, have seized on evidence from the National Audit Office that billions are being lost by fraud. When I ventured £3 billion, he corrected me. It was more like £4 billion or £5 billion. An aspect of his view of the dependent society must therefore be that there are hundreds of thousands of people conning the system.

He put it a bit softer than that. But what mattered was the remedy at hand. The present system was positively designed to encourage abuse. To get people off the unemployment register, the Tories had pushed them into incapacity benefit, which as a result now page 14

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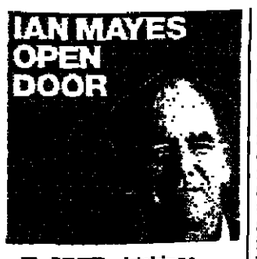
Whose side are we on?



ARE WE mistaking a new dawn for an early sunset? More than a few of our readers (or former readers) think so. They believe we are being much too hard on the Labour Party and on Tony Blair in particular. I'm going to give a substantial sample of their complaints, but (I feel I should say now to avoid any subsequent disappointment) not many answers.

One reader writes, "I have recently decided to cancel my order after some 45 years' readership . . . Since the general election your increasingly vituperative criticism of the Government is more than I can stand."

Another asks, "Can I be the only Guardian reader who *has* a good word for Tony Blair? Am I the only reader who is dismayed by the non-stop flow of innuendo and spite that permeates the comments of many of your contributors? Of course there have been mistakes, cock-ups, dodgy decisions — but what about fairness, a sense of proportion, a lack of bias, which used to be the essence of the Guardian, of which I have been a reader for over 40 years." He no longer takes the paper.

An academic writes, "I have bought the Guardian regularly since 1949 . . . I stayed with you because I nearly always felt you were making an important contribution to debate and one that I could respect. I *no longer* feel that respect. During the past few months, the Guardian has become simply the shrillest, most sensational, least balanced, anti-Government propaganda sheet that it is possible to find . . . I have bought my last Guardian."

These are the kind of comments that reach me (I should point out here that the Guardian's circulation has risen modestly since the election). Are we foolish, or perhaps even naïve, to air these complaints publicly? I gave members of the Guardian's political staff a flavour of them at their weekly meeting last Monday. How confident was I, they wondered, that the letters reaching me were not part of an orchestrated campaign to have us call the dogs to heel. I have no idea whether such a campaign is going on. I asked one of the letter-writers, "Are you by any chance a friend of Alastair Campbell?" "The idea of a mass lobby is idiotic," he replied. "The idea that I could be part of one is more idiotic still."

Had St Jerome been at the Monday meeting he might have summed up the feeling thus, "If an offence come out of the truth, better is it that the offence come than that the truth be concealed." The Guardian's political writers felt that the truth had not become less elusive with the change of government, and that it was their job to pursue it regardless of the consequences to a party with which most people on the Guardian sympathise. There was also the problem (not a new one) of a government, conspiratorial itself, assuming that the journalists were similarly conspiratorial. If this were the case the reader would be left with the conundrum: Whose line is it anyway? There is the view, meant disparagingly, in Labour's inner circle that, "The editor lets them [the journalists] write what they like." The present editor of *the Guardian*, Alan Rusbridger, is happy to acknowledge that that is the case, believes it to be a civilised thing to do, frustrating only for control freaks.

Peter Preston, in a column headed Why the Guardian's not in Labour's bed (December 29, 1997), recalled attempts in the past to explain to politicians what the Guardian was *and was not*. "We were nobody's kept journal. We were, and always had been, independent."

Other articles recently have discussed such questions as, What is the role of the media at a time when the opposition is perceived as ineffectual? (Jonathan Freedland, Commentary, December 17).

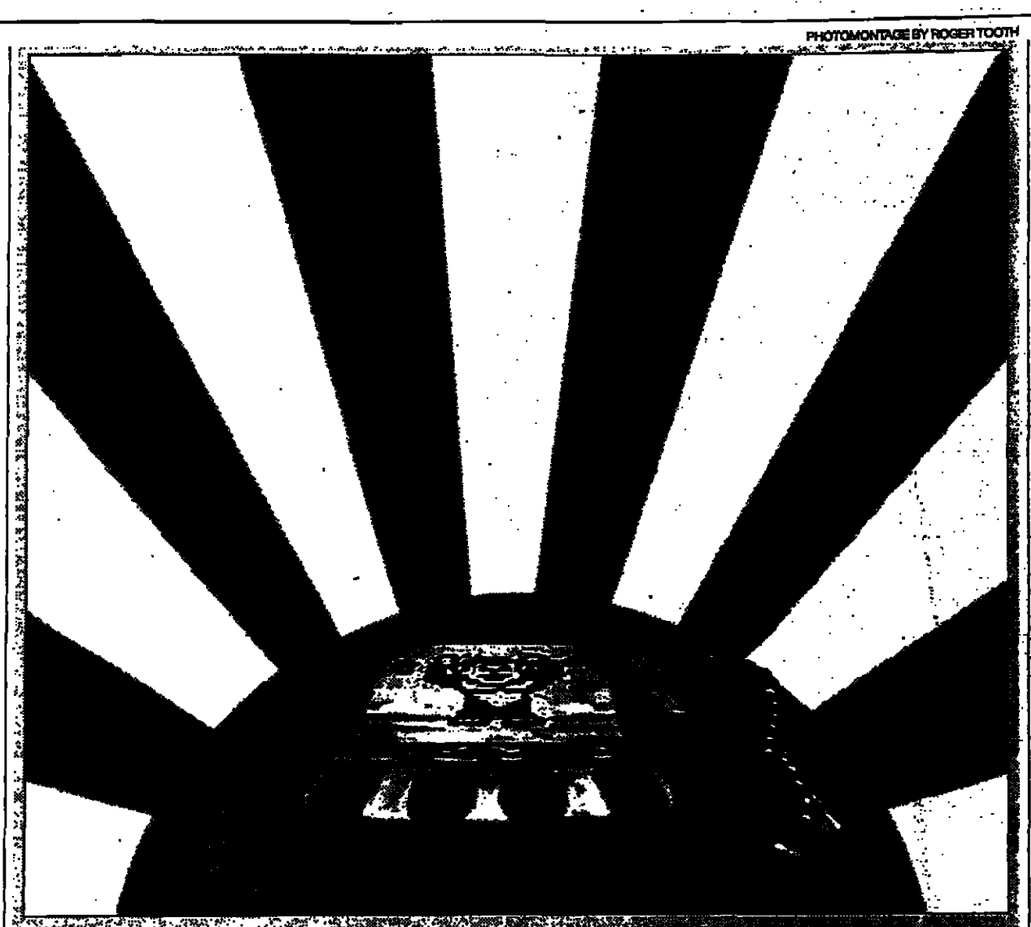
During our pursuit of the sleaze stories which played some part in the demise of the Conservative government, we were accused of being politically motivated. Have we been over-anxious since the election to demonstrate our independence? The general feeling was that it had been business as usual.

The question that gave greatest pause was whether on certain occasions a combination of news, columns, leaders, diaries, cartoons, and G2 pieces produced an effect more harsh than desired. It was felt that it did.

There have been articles in praise of the Government. See, for example, Hugo Young's Amazingly good so far (December 30). [An interview with Tony Blair by Hugo Young begins on the preceding page today]. One senior commentator told me of a discussion he had, just before the election of the Harold Wilson government in 1964, with Alastair Hetherington, then editor of the Guardian. Hetherington said, "I don't know which way you prefer, but my attitude is we can be friendly critics or critical friends to a Labour government." Are we either of those things now, or are we, as some readers think, something else?

Copies of all articles quoted on request. It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

PHOTOMONTAGE BY ROGER TOOTH



THEME OF THE WEEK
THE JAPANESE

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION ?

1 Who issued a grave statement this week?

2 Where did Terence Conran say was "no place for Jesus"?
a) a manger
b) an inn
c) Habitat
d) Millennium Dome

3 Why would some actors like Stephen Berkoff to burger off?

4 What apparently makes us most antagonistic toward the Queen?
a) her outfits
b) her body language
c) her demeanour
d) her handbag

5 What might you soon get for being a "Lycra Lout"?

6 Who was beheaded in the name of art?

7 Who is to get their own spin doctor?
a) Peter Mandelson
b) Gaynor Regan
c) The Lord Chancellor
d) Alastair Campbell

8 What controversy does the Straw family need to be baled out of this week?

9 "I feel perfectly well and I don't know what the fuss is about." Grandmother Elizabeth Buttle on what?

10 What did President Chirac apologise for this week?

11 Who didn't welcome Christmas cards with these on them?

12 Which chart-topping singer let someone else take the rap for him?

13 How long has Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, allegedly spent answering MPs' questions in the Commons since the May election?
a) 11 seconds b) 11 minutes
c) 11 hours d) 11 days

14 What type of programme has one foot in the grave?

15 Who got a dressing down from the new chairman of the Royal Opera House?

Gabrielle Morris

Answers below Theme of the Week.

Quiz answers

1) The Bishop of Peterborough, who released Princess Diana's burial certificate to quash rumours that she had been moved from the island at Althorp into the family crypt.
2) d — Millennium Dome. Conran, creative consultant to the Dome, was arguing that a dominant Christian theme would be "inappropriate".
3) Because Berkoff has broken the Equity strike over voice-overs for commercials by doing adverts for McDonald's.
4) d — Her handbag. According to research commissioned by the Sunday Times, the public feel the Queen's handbag is a barrier and reminder of her wealth.
5) Fined. Cyclists who terrorise pedestrians on the pavement may be subject to £20 fines.
6) The Queen. Justin Mortimer's royal portrait, commissioned by the Royal Society for the Arts, depicts the Queen with her head disconnected from her shoulders.
7) c — The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, who is alleged to be looking for a £70,000 a year press adviser.
8) It has emerged that two months after the election, Mrs Straw accepted a non-executive directorship of pools firm Littlewoods, which is regulated by the Home Office.
9) On her giving birth at the age of 60, 35 years after her first child, making her the oldest new mother in the UK.
10) The Dreyfus Affair, in which an innocent Jewish army captain was framed for treason.
11) Margaret Cook, estranged wife of the Foreign Secretary, who joked in a Scottish paper that anyone who sent her a card with a robin on it wouldn't be hearing from her again.
12) Mark Morrison, who was found guilty of sending a stand-in, complete with hat and dark glasses, to fulfil a previous community service order.
13) b — 11 minutes. But he will have to spend more time at the despatch box to respond to MPs' concerns about the Dome.
14) The sitcom. David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, says it is losing its ability to make people laugh.
15) Anyone with the temerity not to dress up for the opera. Sir Colin Southgate said he didn't want "to sit next to somebody in a singlet, a pair of shorts and a smelly pair of trainers".

How You Rate?

0-4 Singlet
5-9 Doublet
9-14 Lounge suit
15 Tails

Awards of The Week

Steve McQueen Award:

To the two pigs described by Wiltshire police as "cunning and devious" after their great escape from a slaughterhouse. The pedigree Ginger Tamworths forced their way through a fence, swam the River Avon, raided local gardens for sustenance and eluded all early attempts to catch them. Free The Tamworth Two, is now the cry.

Designer of The Week:
Stephen Bayley, who resigned as creative director of the Millennium Dome, calling Peter Mandelson a "dictator" and the Dome "crap". Bayley's wife Flo allegedly relates how Stephen once arranged a tie rack in the bathroom: whenever he opened it, his ties cascaded out and into the toilet.

Marital Longevity Award:
To William Hague for announcing to the nation: "It has only been three weeks, but so far the marriage is going extremely well."

Stating The Bleedin' Obvious Award:
To the North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council, which has organised free one-hour classes on how to pull on a duvet cover properly.

Feud of The Week

Name: Julie Burchill
Occupation: Bad girl of journalism.
History of feud: When they met she thought him "blond, brilliant and far and away the cleverest, funniest boy I'd ever known". They set up Modern Review in 1991, until falling out when Julie wanted to install her new lover, Charlotte Raven, as editor. He retaliated by "torching" the magazine and they haven't spoken since.
Why now? She has just written her autobiography, I Knew I Was Right.
What she said: "When we fell out in 1995, he was bald, bilious and paying for sex." In a letter to the Guardian on Thursday, she called him "a middle-class ponce".

Name: Toby Young.
Occupation: Bad boy of journalism.
History of feud: He needed a mentor and she was it. He called her "the cleverest woman in Britain", admiring her "razor-sharp wit". But he regarded Charlotte Raven as "the office dogsbody".
Why now? Toby reviewed her new book for the Mail on Sunday.
What he said: "A bloated recluse battling booze, bankruptcy and drugs, Julie is like a parody of her former self, overweight and out of touch." "Please pick on someone her own size," he added yesterday, "I believe wrestling fans are looking for a replacement for Big Daddy."
Gabrielle Morris

A vision for our future

'This idea that we're going to start harming people . . . is ludicrous,' says Tony Blair. But it is not only the disabled, protesting outside Downing Street, who read newspaper headlines and worry about the welfare system being reformed
PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN STILLWELL

page 13 had six times more claimants than in 1979.

You can see adverts for rented accommodation, he was also shocked to say, specifying a tenant who must be on housing benefit. "I'm not saying people are wrong to take advantage of that system," he conceded. "But a system designed in that way is not working properly."

The gratitude that people would surely feel at being excused from any longer living this shadowy dependent life was already visible, he said, in the related field of welfare-to-work, the centrepiece of the announced part of the Government's programme. This involves an element of compulsion, but is already showing its value.

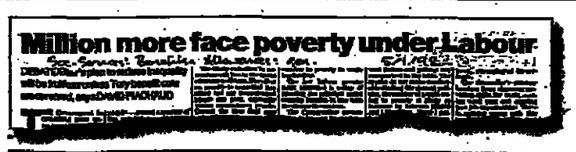
"There is a slight tendency in the middle class," the Prime Minister said — I sensed another subtextual Guardian rebuke here, though the paper has wholly supported welfare-to-work — "to think that a lot of these young people will resent the programme. But the evidence is that they're enthusiastic about it. They're going to work for decent employers, who get a subsidy to give them some training. For the first time in their lives, they're turning up and getting a wage."

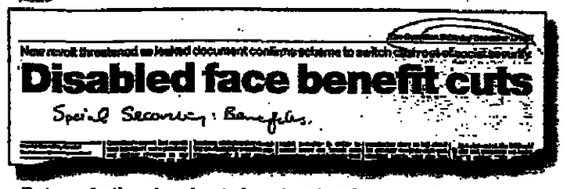
It was the same story with lone parents. He didn't claim it was any big deal, but noted the briefing he had been given for his Midlands visit, which showed him that of the 500 interviewed for the pilot scheme in Halesowen, 420 signed up and more than 200 were already at work. "Every time you give people the chance," he said, "you'll find a lot of them will take it."

If you only get the terms and conditions right, in other words, the better side of people will come out. Large numbers of them become dependent only because the system is stacked that way. The Blair vision, of a society as decent and rational, as far from lead-swinging, as himself, carries him into the uplands of optimism, from which he's determined the nay-sayers will not pull him down.

What, however, about the remainder? He didn't pretend that everyone was a potential GDP-contributor. "You've got real people for whom welfare is a lifeline, and you can't go and muck around with that. It has to be handled with immense care," he said. It's also true that, from VAT on fuel to the release of housing capital receipts, he can point to several things he's done that will help the poor.

Yet when I suggested that a reform which saved money from the non-needy should give more money to the really needy, he was cagey. They often needed services as much as money. "I count the National Health Service and the education system as part of the welfare state." That, he seemed to indicate, was where they money would go.


Million more face poverty under Labour


Disabled face benefit cuts

Blair's new tough line on single mothers

But surely there's going to be a residue, perhaps 15 per cent of people, who cannot go to work, are desperately needy and are being badly let down?

"Exactly. You need to help those people."

With more money in their pockets? "That may be the answer," he cautiously plumped. "There may be other things. Like giving them better services." But of course, he added rather thinly, "we want to do more for those who can't work or are severely disabled."

AT THE heart of Tony Blair's attitude to social security itself, I think, is something tougher than the benignity of a latter-day Candide. That is a reasonable selling line, and there's no doubt he does believe all will be for the best. But he speaks for a system that must slowly cease to be a universal provider, and become essentially a safety net.

The universal state pension is to *be protected, but the role of state* provision will inexorably diminish. He sees a history that cries out for modernising, all over the globe. The welfare state, he said, was created "to give the first parts of opportunity to people". This consisted of basic housing, basic healthcare, basic pension, unemployment insurance.

But that was 50 years ago, he said, "in a society and labour market that doesn't exist any more." I got the impression it now had nothing to do with progressive politics.

The Government's job now would be to supervise, and not to pay, he implied. For example?

"For example, in relation to pensions. In time, people will provide more for themselves, but the system will be organised by government." The system must be "fair and sustainable for the long term," but it would be driven by people "inevitably" making more provision for themselves.

This tendency could reach into many areas. He wanted to change the psychology of the country. To change, I suggested, people's expectations?

There followed the longest pause in our conversation. "Well," *he said slowly.* "Not in every sense. What are people's expectations? I think they are: 'When I really need welfare, will I get it?' People's expectations of the NHS are: 'If you're ill you can get cared for, and it doesn't matter if you don't have any money.'"

People's expectations, he said, were correct. "But I don't think that's the way the system works."

He went on: "If you were to talk to people and ask what they think the welfare state should do, they would say it should help people when they are needy."

At present they have a larger attitude than that, I replied. That's really a safety-net concept. Minimalist and getting more so. But Blair believes this is the way of the world, and that people can be encouraged to understand it. "Their concept of welfare is the relieving of poverty and the help of people in need."

The definition of these terms, of course, is now the question. Blair is unembarrassed to be starting a debate in the void. He's adopting the same strategy he did for the abolition of Labour's Clause Four. Then also, he was criticised for withholding his ideas about an alternative. "But I said no, the first thing to do is decide whether the present way we look at things is sensible." After he proved it wasn't, the next stages followed towards the promised land.

Welfare, he readily concedes, is far more sensitive than Clause Four. But he has the same neat programme in his head. First expose the status quo, then reassert the principles, then produce the details.

But this is where the problem of the great debate, and how it can intelligently be held, comes in. There is no void, he remarks, concerning the status quo. We can all see how bad this is. That should be the first topic for discussion, and is the only ground on which he is engaging at the moment. And as I indicated at the beginning, he had some difficulty making sense, perhaps even seeing the legitimacy of questions about the great shift over which he ultimately wants to preside.

"I get the impression that you don't think the system needs changing," he said rather sharply at the end. A baseless impression of my opinion, but a suggestive revelation of his own consummate certainty.

For this certainty is a fact. It always is with Tony Blair, a disconcerting truth to remember, and to set beside the ultra-reasonable manner as well as, in the case of welfare, the apparent agnosticism, the openness to consultative opinion.

His last line, after a half-hour catalogue of caution, was in this category of the disconcerting. He couldn't start putting the details into the debate yet, he said. But he added: "I've got a very clear idea of the type of the system we should have in the end — yes." To my remark that his categoric certainty about the big picture was something I'd noticed in every talk we had had for the last four years, he laughed jovially, with only the faintest hint of denial.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Amartya Sen is the new top don at the wealthiest college in Britain. But what does he actually *do*?

Master of all he surveys

INTERVIEW BY SABINE DURRANT

Professor Sen ... 'It is not the case that I haven't enjoyed myself. So wine is not a subject in which I lack interest' PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN McCABE

Last Wednesday, the new Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, turned up at his new job to find the gate locked. He was standing there in his gown and his academic regalia, but the porter, boot-faced under his bowler hat, wouldn't let him in. He said he had to see his documentation and took it away to be authenticated by the college fellows — all 154 of them. They were in the chapel at the time and when they'd read his contract, his Letters Patent, and seen it was signed by the Queen, they hurriedly lined up in the Great Court, opened the Great Gate and welcomed him in. Later there was singing in the chapel and in the evening, a Great Feast.

"It was a very quaint and antique ceremony," says Professor Amartya Sen, the distinguished economist and philosopher who has arrived to take up the post from Harvard. "It's a kind of thing people take seriously, therefore it is serious. I can see the merit of it, though it isn't something I'm particularly used to. It certainly drives home the solemnity of the occasion... the beginning of a new job."

Two weeks before that inauguration. Professor Sen was standing nervously, a stooped man in an overly roomy suit, an anxious-looking bird of academia with wiry grey hair and enquiring eyes behind thick-rimmed glasses, outside his home-to-be. The master's lodge is an imposing Tudor creeper-clad structure occupying much of one side of Trinity College's Great Court, which is roughly the size of Wembley Stadium.

According to college rules, he could be photographed in or in front of the lodge or anywhere in the quad as long as the photographer didn't move from its porch. "As I'm new I don't want to get into any trouble... " the professor said peering round at the banks of watching windows, "with the fellows."

He then wandered worriedly through the lodge — a magnificent historical residence with a peculiarly English institutional air. "This," he said dubiously, gesturing to two single beds in candlewick bedspreads, "is the royal guest room. That is the Master's Study, though I have heard that many meetings take place there so it is not perhaps as private...

"Here is the bedroom of the previous master — but my wife and I have decided to move to smaller apartments at the back which are quieter. When there are feasts and entertaining which go on late, we can leave them to it."

There was building work in the college, the housekeeper was away and a thick layer of dirt covered the priceless furniture in all the huge rooms. "Dust," he kept saying in despair. "*Dust*."

To be the 36th master of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in the University of Cambridge is, many would say, the best and most coveted academic job in the world, the sort of job characters in Inspector Morse kill for. It is in the gift of the Queen, which in practical terms means the prime minister, and the last time a Labour leader made the appointment was in 1965 when Harold Wilson chose Rab Butler, who was unpopular with the fellows both as a politician and as an outsider who hadn't attended Trinity as an undergraduate.

There was a rumour this time that Douglas Hurd could be picked ("but *far* too old" said one college insider) and whispers, to scotch it, in favour of Professor James Mirrlees and Lord "Garry" Runciman, both fellows within the college. "Extremely suitable names," said Sen, tactfully again, his pale hands clasped in his lap.

Sen, who is 64, is an imaginative choice, both an insider and an outsider. He is what is commonly known as a "Trinity man", having completed both his first degree and his PhD at the college (the latter in a year) and been installed as a fellow between 1957 and 1963. But since then he has taken his scholarship — applying economic theory to practical and ethical problems — elsewhere, to India where he was born and where he still holds citizenship, to the LSE, to Oxford and, for the last 10 years, to Harvard.

He has lived his life in academia: he was born on a campus, at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, both his father and grandfather were professors in India. And his qualifications (in the form of elections, awards and publications) are extensive. His office sends through his CV in two versions; the shorter, which is faxed, runs to four pages, the long, which is sent by courier, to 18.

It is tempting to say, as one does of academics, that this man has lived his life removed from the world. But such assumptions are humbled by the fact that Sen witnessed the Bengal famine of 1942-43 at the age of nine, had cancer of the mouth when he was a young man, and watched his second wife die of cancer herself, leaving him to bring up two young children. (He had two other children with his first wife, from whom he is divorced.) He is currently married to Emma Rothschild, a fellow at King's, Cambridge.

There is one irony though: the new master of one of the richest landowners in England — estimated to be worth up to £400 million (the famous story about being able to walk from Cambridge to Oxford on Trinity land is, apparently, apocryphal), a college legendary for its cuisine and wine cellar — is also an expert on global famine. "I think there is a great deal of reason for feeling disquiet in one's life, but that disquiet may not come only when one is eating," he said sharply.

'I have friends who have gone into the City and their lives seem much more restricted than mine.'

"If you are buying an expensive car, that car, given the economic resource, could then have been converted into food for people, so, while in terms of needing no imagination and with instant evocation, a feast may appear to be in tension with famine, every type of heavily expensive expenditure could be put in that category. So no, I don't really think the tension is very special in the context of a college meal."

He's quite frightening when he wants to be. It's the combination of mild-mannered politeness and fierce intelligence. But is that what the job demands? We went in search of some coffee and in a school-sized kitchen found a kettle and pipe of polystyrene cups. A vague-looking chap in boat shoes and a baseball cap with Nantucket on the peak stalked in and removed two bottles of champagne from the fridge.

This was Professor Gareth Jones, the vice-master, who had been acting master — "camping here" — since the previous incumbent Sir Michael Atiyah retired in September. "There's Nescafé," he said pointing, "but no milk." "Café Hag," replied Professor Sen with an attention to exactitude which may have got him where he is today. Jones was halfway out the door with his brace of champers and a warning "don't give away any state secrets" when Sen remembered something.

"This problem with the housekeeper's dodgy boyfriend..." he began. "Perhaps we should talk about that later," said the VM with an anxious glance in my direction. Sen, uncomprehendingly: "But we saw him yesterday. He's still around. I mean he has a key to the master's lodge."

"Yes well, as I said, *later*..."

During the interview, a squeak of boat shoe repeatedly presaged the arrival of Professor Jones. Either he was finding it hard to let go of the job, or he was keeping an eye on things. It made you wonder: how much power does the master actually have? What does he actually *do*?

"The master does not have directly many tasks certainly," said Sen, crossing his pale ankles. "I think partly because of the tension between the master and the fellows at the time when Richard Bentley was master here at the beginning of the 18th century. He was regarded as somewhat autocratic and the fellows tried to strip him of power as well as to get rid of him as master. They managed to do that but he actually stayed on in the lodge for almost a decade after he was evicted. They could not really get him out.

"Anyway, as a result of this, I think the master's powers lie only through the college council, as chair. And then they have to dine in a certain amount in the evenings and be at the feasts and preside over them giving grace. It's things like that."

As he talked, some of the liquid from his cup was slopping on to the floor. But he didn't seem to notice.

Will he find it stuffy after Harvard? "What do you mean, stuffy?" With the regulations and things. "What regulations?" Well, like not being able to photograph in the quad. "But I don't go around taking photographs of the college. That's a restriction on the Guardian rather than me. There are more regulations of a certain type certainly, but these are regulations of which I am familiar. They are ingrained in me.

"I have friends who have gone into the City and their lives seem much more restricted than mine is. At least I don't have to put on a suit every time I go anywhere."

He thinks, compared to Harvard students, Cambridge undergraduates "get away with murder". "Here you are left rather severely alone. As a student I enjoyed that, I must say." Did he have fun as a student? It's hard to imagine him messing about, getting drunk. "Drunk? I think I probably was not because I have fairly high tolerance levels but it is not the case that I haven't relaxed and enjoyed myself. So wine is not a subject in which I lack interest."

As master, access to supplies may be rather easier. "I recollect the college did have a good cellar," he said. Otherwise, he is looking forward to taking a break from teaching (he has taught almost continuously since he was 23), seeing more of his wife (they are both weary of commuting despite the air miles) and leading a rather more leisurely life (Harvard was "backbreaking"). There is a book to write about rationality, for example, "which has been postponed and postponed and postponed".

When I rang the lodge this week to check some details, the leisurely life had yet to kick in. He was "frantic" with meetings he said. But most taxing of all was the "constant drilling. I am told this might finish by Easter." And the dust! Still falling apparently.

"We sat down to lunch yesterday before the ceremony, the knocking and so on, and the table was spotless. Today, it's covered. You could sign your name in it." Maybe it will be swept away soon.

SIMON HOGGART'S WEEK

Away over the border with the West Lothian question

THE Government wishes to get rid of the constitutional absurdity by which hereditary peers can vote. At the same time it wants to introduce the equal absurdity of Scottish MPs at Westminster being able to vote on English matters, while English MPs will have no say at all in Scottish affairs — a state of affairs known as the West Lothian Question.

Ministers have various replies, none satisfactory. "It doesn't matter," is one. "Because we've decided," is another. "To compensate for hundreds of years of oppression of Scots by the hated English," is implied in various forms. The truth: "Because there's no way round it, and we're going to force it through," is, of course, unacceptable.

But there is a perfectly good answer to the question, and that is Scottish independence. I don't know why this horrifies so many English politicians. An independent Scotland within Europe would keep its close links with England. There need be no border controls. Scots would continue to work here just as Irish people do. Every year England would save billions of pounds now given to Scotland under the old Barnett formula. The armed forces would have to be divided, but could retain close ties. The Scots might choose to stay within the sterling area or join EMU.

Polls in England show that the southern population broadly favours the idea. Both countries are building other links (there are now far more direct trains from London to Paris than to Glasgow.) It's a good, straightforward, workable idea and we should join the SNP in embracing it.

AT Christmas I mentioned the newly fashionable circular letters in which you describe everything that went wrong in the past year. A friend has just sent me a classic of the genre, from a middle-class family with a double-barrelled name. It's been a terrible year for them. The wife has been made redundant, and the only job she can find involves home visits and encountering "a cockatiel which squawks obscenities in the corner". The daughter caught a debilitating virus just before her 11-plus. Then Grandma was slashed by a hit-and-run pushchair "so badly that Casualty thought she had been run over by a car." The other daughter is trapped in a class with disruptive boys. After this tale of almost unmitigated misery it is an intense relief to reach the last paragraph: "The three cats are fine."

A HANDSOME apology in the glossy give-away magazine which is dished out in the Chiswick area of West London. An earlier edition had described the surprising visit to suburban Kew by the Japanese royal family. "We apologise for any confusion which the piece may have caused, as it was unfortunately incorrect. It should have read that Sir Ghillean and Lady Prance were themselves received by the Emperor and Empress of Japan during a visit to Tokyo, and not the other way round."

WHY on earth does anyone take Steven Berkoff seriously? He is in trouble with Equity, the actors' union, for taking voice-over work while the union is in dispute with the advertising industry about fees. They are "appalled" by what he has done; he calls this response "an iniquitous act" which is "beyond redemption".

Where his own work is concerned, Mr Berkoff is able to suspend disbelief every time

Actually, the Church teaches that nobody is beyond redemption, however great their sins. This is the centre of the argument about Myra Hindley, and what she did may be thought worse than being rude about a scab — even a famous scab like Mr Berkoff. Still, he does seem to believe that anything short of full-time adoration of him and his works is outrageous.

Some years ago he produced Oscar Wilde's play Salome. This was hugely praised, mainly by Mr Berkoff. Kind friends had bought us tickets, so we went along to see the hapless cast walking round in slow motion, as if wading through treacle, and speaking v-e-e-e-ry slowly, like Daleks on pot. It turned out that this was to set up Mr Berkoff's own appearance as Herod, whom he played as a comic music hall turn, somewhere between Max Wall and Russ Abbott. It was painful. Later Mr Berkoff hailed the astonishing success of his production in the Guardian, recording that it had been another week of full houses, even though — oddly enough — the night we went it was at least a third empty. But then where his own work is concerned, Mr Berkoff is able to suspend disbelief every time.

MORE letters about Perfect Day, including a valuable Leavisite exegesis from Ben Cooper of Leamington Spa. He points out that the whole Lou Reed album Transformer (where Perfect Day originally appeared) borrows heavily from passages and ideas in Eliot's The Waste Land. This does make sense of the more puzzling lines. Why "sangria" in the park rather than beer or gin? Because it's (almost) Spanish for blood, and so relates to fertility cults, as does the otherwise irrelevant line "you're going to reap just what you sow" — perhaps in this case meant literally. "You just keep me hanging on" refers not to the Supremes' great 1996 hit but to the Hanged Man in the tarot pack — another favourite of Eliot's.

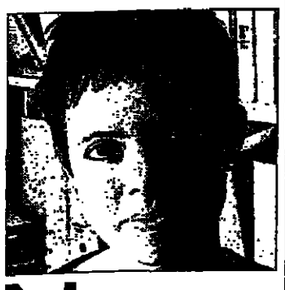
Of course there could be a wholly Christian interpretation as well. Sangria would be communion wine, and the line: "I thought I was someone else/ Someone good" may refer to the redemption of sins brought about by Christ hanging on the cross. Improbable? No, especially since Reed's great drinking companion was the poet Delmore Schwartz who, Mr Cooper tells me, was obsessed by The Waste Land and talked about it endlessly.

Blessed Margaret

HEAD TO HEAD: IS MAGGIE THATCHER A HEROINE OF THE NEW FEMINISM?

Yes

Natasha Walter
Writer



No

Hilary Cottam
Academic

PHOTOMONTAGE (DETAIL) BY PETER KENNARD

Dear Natasha Walter,

Margaret Thatcher, you tell us, is "the great unsung heroine of British feminism". Margaret Thatcher, who presided over the very increases in women's poverty and inequality which your new book, The New Feminism, documents? Or who so infamously claimed there to be no such thing as society?

We have always had these Boadiceas who have been combative, unafraid of personal success — but where has this left us? Margaret Thatcher's politics were those of the particular "me"; white, middle class and, yes, a woman. This too is the "me" feminism of the Spice Girls — for whom Thatcher is of course a heroine. Her legacy is an individualised form of politics which, while it might be unabashed in its celebration of "girl power", has forgotten that equality means equality for everyone, not just those at the centre.

In embracing Margaret Thatcher you, like her, have merely substituted the individual for politics. You want to separate the personal from the political, but are we not then left with just an empty form of celebrity feminism *facing a political vacuum?*

As you call for a new pragmatic feminism, the Government proposes cutting benefits to single mothers. Is it any coincidence that this group can't organise to protest? Where are the spaces for solidarity in this "new" feminism of which Thatcher is the heroine? Let us re-evaluate the personal and the political and let us have heroines — but not Margaret Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,
Hilary Cottam
Open University

Dear Hilary,

When I decided to write The New Feminism I began by interviewing dozens of women. One question I liked to ask was who their heroines were. Lots of names came up, but the one I kept hearing was Margaret Thatcher. One 13-year-old girl said to me: "Respect her for getting there." Another woman who is now the second black woman MP in Britain, told me: "I don't care if Margaret Thatcher was the devil, it meant so much to me that I was growing up when two women — she and the Queen — were running the country."

I'm not going to make extreme claims for Margaret Thatcher. I'm not going to say that she's a feminist, or that I agree with any of her politics or policies. But I will say that she had a real, striking effect on many women who were growing up while she was prime minister. Above all, she normalised female power. She made us realise that women can do the things that men once thought were all their own. These things include being powerful and confident. They may also, less comfortably, include being cruel, megalomaniac, and war-mongering.

Feminists often wrote as if they believed that all women were very much the same, and very different from men — nicer, more peace-loving. But the cause of women's equality will get nowhere in this generation unless feminists say loudly that women are all very different. And because we're all very different, we'll have all sorts of heroines — from Geri Spice to Princess Diana, from Mo Mowlam to Margaret Thatcher.

Yours sincerely,
Natasha Walter

Dear Natasha,

Yes, we are all very different but difference, far from being ignored by feminists, has in recent decades been central to debates. Some would argue that feminists have shouted so loudly about how different women are that the entire feminist project has been side-tracked — there is no such thing as "woman" it was claimed in the eighties, to howls of horror and roars of glee.

Isn't the real question how might we respect and nurture these differences while seeking ways to build the consensus necessary for any practical, political intervention? This is what is precluded by the individualism you prescribe and this is why your choice of heroine matters.

In your book you argue that we must separate the personal from the political so that we are free to pursue individual power and equality. "Above all, new feminism is materialist" you claim, and our material ambitions have been hampered by a "politically correct" obsession with the personal.

Personal policing is, I agree, sterile. But issues we face as women, the very way we approach our differences, runs through lives in public and in private. To abandon rather than rethink these links is to cut ourselves off from our own inspiring history. I fear your "new" feminism is, like its heroine, deeply conservative and, *cut off from its roots, has lost the* tools to achieve the pragmatic project you advocate.

Yours,
Hilary

Dear Hilary,

You tell me that I am prescribing individualism, that I am asking women to pursue individual power, and that I am abandoning the links between women. You say that the new feminism that I describe in my book is not pragmatic. What are you basing these complaints upon?

My book lays out very clearly that I believe that women have a common disadvantage — the absence of political, economic and social equality; and a common cause — the pursuit of equality. I argue that this common cause links women throughout Britain. The majority of women now want to see more equality at home and at work.

Given this new, mainstream appeal of feminism, it is time we turned the debate away from the stuff of women's personal lives. I don't want to see feminism bogged down in arguments about how women should dress and talk and make love..

That means that feminism now, as I see it, is less individualistic and more pragmatic than ever before. It is less personal and more political. It is looking for straight-*forward, achievable objectives:* new measures to enable parents to balance work and home, a minimum wage, support for women in poverty. And it has in its sights something that is not localised, not individualistic, and not conservative. It has in its sights the final revolution: the achievement of thoroughgoing and lasting equality between the sexes in Britain.

Yours,
Natasha

Dear Natasha,

In your book, you have rejected identity politics as a form of feminism that arises directly out of your own experience, but I wonder whether this personal account is any different. You are at ease because you write from the centre; white, young, employed — you, like me, are in effect without "identity". This is not about dictating personal lives, it is about recognising that the ability to act politically cannot be separated from social status. Cultural ideas about femininity are imbricated in the economic.

So Natasha, we must agree to differ and I will celebrate that you have opened this space because there is so much more to be done.

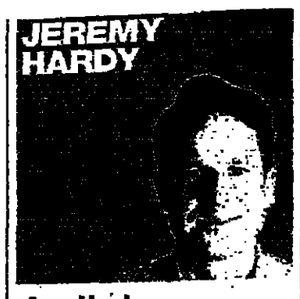
Yours,
Hilary

Dear Hilary,

Out of the 260 pages of my book about three pages are taken up by references to myself or my own background or experiences. But you ignore the fact that the other women whose voices you hear in my book come from all sorts of backgrounds. Some of them are living on benefit and speak about their experiences of bringing up children in poverty. Some of them speak about their experiences of sexual violence and some of them work in community groups and speak about trying to make life better for themselves and other women. There is an energetic feminism in Britain today among women of all social groups. And it is that reality, not my own experiences, that makes me believe that equality between men and women may now be closer than ever before.

Yours,
Natasha

The New Feminism, by Natasha Walter, is published next week by Little Brown. Hilary Cottam is writing a book on cities.



JEREMY HARDY

A divine right to annoy the rest of us

We could all be forgiven for forgetting that the Millen*nium is supposed to celebrate* Jesus's birthday. It has snuck up on us and we're not ready. In two years' time, Blue Peter presenters will be digging up their time capsule to see what life was like in the 1960s.

Readers may remember that craze for burying rust-proof pods containing a Matchbox car, a bus ticket, a Smarties tube and a copy of Radio Times. Because of the *Malthusianism of the time, it was* expected that, by now, there would be so many overpopulation statistics per head, that if everyone breathed out at the same time it would blow the sun out and there'd be a new ice age forcing us to live mostly on the moon. No one ever thought that three decades later, we'd still be using jump leads, eating cornflakes straight from the packet and saying: "It's not what you know, it's who you know."

Admittedly, technology has moved on apace. We now have telephones that won't start because of a flat battery. But, in terms of culture, everything is so retrospective that nothing which was buried in 1968 would look outlandish today. About the only things to have completely disappeared by the year 2000 will be free education and the welfare state, and the Government is only just burying them now.

Anyway, some sort of a do will be cobbled together in time for this big anniversary, and who would have thought that, at the end of the 20th century, we would have a government crimson with embarrassment because it nearly forgot to invite the Church of England?

The worst thing about the C of E — *apart from the fact that lemon* curd is vile and an unworthy raffle prize — is the way that it cherishes its role as the established Church. Despite internal opposition from radical clergy, the hierarchy clings to this competitive advantage. Anglicans espouse ecumenism, and yet they seem to want be in charge of it.

The protestation, "This is still a Christian country", is true only to the extent that the Anglican church still wields undue influence and enjoys undeserved privileges. But "Christian" like other terms denoting faith, is used more often as an ethnic description.

Parents who say that they want their children to receive a Christian education usually mean that they are worried by the number of children at a school who aren't white. They fear that their kids will be learning funny Indian customs like drinking tea and eating chutney.

A person's religious background is part of their cultural identity, whether they believe in a god or not. So it is not necessarily wrong for an atheist to describe themselves as, for example, a Catholic. Indeed, I have never met a Catholic — priests included — who believed a word of it. Despite the myth, it is not the Anglicans who will admit it's all bollocks after a few pints.

Anyway, it would be impossible to make sense of British history or culture without understanding our Christian history. But then, it is impossible to make sense of the Christian calendar without a working knowledge of paganism. And although the birth of Christ is used as an arbitrary way of measuring time, no-one seriously believes that Jesus was born on a bank holiday one December, to coincide with the end of the Roman tax year and the exhaustion of possible dates with "BC" in front of them. Time didn't suddenly begin in a stable with a tinfoil star on top of it. Myrrh didn't suddenly come into being that day, although nobody before or since has considered it an appropriate gift for a new-born baby.

What is troubling about the emphasis on Christianity in the Dome is that it will not merely help to place us historically and culturally. It will be a huge advert for a religion. In the same way that the national curriculum demands a multi-faith approach, a benign nod will go in the direction of the lesser creeds, but we'll know which religion is supposed to be best.

If the curriculum is to be slimmed down, the influence of the Church should be the first thing to go. At the moment, we have a situation where the message to children of a minority faith is: "We like your *different* way of using candles, and you do some lovely things with material, but your grandparents

Nowhere in the Scripture does the Lord say: 'Pull not thy sister's hair because she doesn't like it'

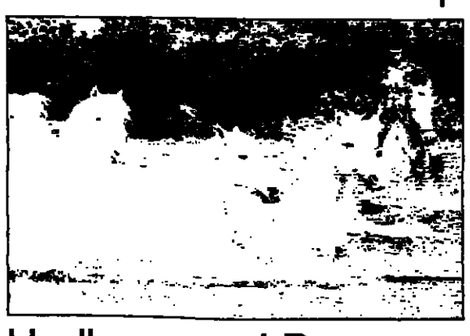
didn't come from here, so you must understand that you are wrong."

Small wonder then that we are moving towards a segregated society where children go to schools according to their parents' religion. If one religion is allowed to dominate, others will seek isolation in order to survive. And since there are already Catholic schools and Jewish schools, it is argued that we should have Islamic schools in the interests of equality.

Obviously there is a good reason for introducing the very young to religion: grown-ups are wiser, more sceptical and less easily intimidated. And theoretically, children can only understand the difference between right and wrong within the framework of a monotheistic belief system, although nowhere in the scripture does the Lord say, "Pull not thy sister's hair because she doesn't like it" or "How would you like it if Caesar didn't render unto you the things which are yours?"

Surely, one of the best ways to embrace multi-culturalism is to decide that it's time to get all religions off people's backs. People can believe what they like, but why should the fact that their ideas are mystical give them more right to impose them on others? The teaching of religion as truth has no place in any school, and if there is to be a dominant religion advertised among the trade stands in the Dome, it's only fair that it should be Shinto, given pride of place alongside Toyota.

The **Guardian** Travel Shop



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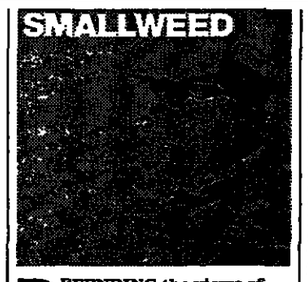
The **Guardian**

SMALLWEED



DEFENDING the views of Sir Colin Southgate, new chairman of the Royal Opera House, who said he didn't want shorts and smelly trainers next to him at the opera, a spokesman for the Departure of Culture explained: "It just proves he's his own man." What an inspirational line! Can anyone use it? Certainly as an exculpation for use in every conceivable contingency, it seems destined to become standard government issue. Foreign Secretary ditches long-suffering wife? "It just proves he's his own man." Chancellor sticks dirk into Premier? Ditto. The rest of the world will swiftly adopt it too. AN Other (Bath) eats part of S Fenn (London Scottish)? "It just proves that, apart from a bit of ear in his stomach, he's his own man."

THE RECENT events in the ghastly turmoil we know as Rugby Union reinforce Smallweed's oft-stated view that the time is ripe for this sport to be merged with boxing. As various veterans sporting cauliflower ears have observed this week, it's a man's game, rugby, in which those who engage in the front row of the scrum expect the odd bit of how's-your-father. That biting should now be involved in rugby union merely confirms its kinship with boxing, where Mike Tyson for one is famous for using his teeth.

A lawyer writes: I am sure you wish to point out that nothing said here is designed to imply that the Bath XV were guilty. As one of their front row said, there's no reliable evidence that the damage to Fenn's ear was done by any Bathonian. This could be a case where, as sometimes seems to have happened in Bosnia, protagonists inflicted damage upon themselves in the hope of laying the blame on their opponents.

Smallweed deferentially mumbles: You take the words right out of my mouth.

WHY DO SO many television programmes nowadays embed the names of presenters in their titles? On Thursday, for instance, Channel 4 offered Mrs Cohen's Money, presented by, er, Mrs Cohen, while BBC 2's peak viewing included: 8pm, Ray Mears' World Of Survival; 8.30, Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines; and 9.30 Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends. What next? Trevor McDonald's News At Ten? Jeremy Paxman's Naughty Newsnight? Suzanne Charlton's Wild 'n'Wacky Weather? This nonsense must stop; the alliterations especially.

I SEE that in her memoirs the controversialist Julie Burchill claims that she and her ex-inamorata Charlotte Raven had the best four legs in London. This claim seems unlikely. It's one of the few reliable rules about life that no set of legs can be adequately judged by the person wearing them. As Burns so nearly wrote in this context: "O wad some Power the giftie gie 'em/ To see their legs as others see 'em/ It wad frae mony a blunder free 'em/ And foolish notion."

A centipede writes: How true. On any objective analysis, the best 100 legs in London are those on which I am standing at this moment in order to reach my word processor.

THOUGH further reports on the Bensons *have come* in this week, the Smallweed spotlight turns today on Condorcet, author of the famous Condorcet criterion, as explained in this column a fortnight ago. The Marquis of Condorcet, I suggested, was a mathematician-cum-politician who fell out with extremist elements after the French Revolution. Since then I have been offered the following version of events, based on the writings of Simon Schama. In 1794, Condorcet, a moderate Girondist, attempted to flee from the Terror by walking as far as he could before nightfall. Reaching Clamart, south-west of Paris, tired and hungry, he rested at an inn, where he ordered an omelette. "And how many eggs in your omelette, citizen?" the innkeeper asked. "Twelve," Condorcet replied. This was unwise. It exposed a familiarity with a distinctly unproletarian lifestyle. The innkeeper grassed to the local police and Condorcet was locked up on suspicion of being an aristocrat. He died in his cell — possibly of starvation — before he could be taken back to Paris. This whole tragedy, Smallweed sadly reflects, might well have been avoided if only Condorcet's spokesman been there to explain that the marquis was simply proving he was his own man.

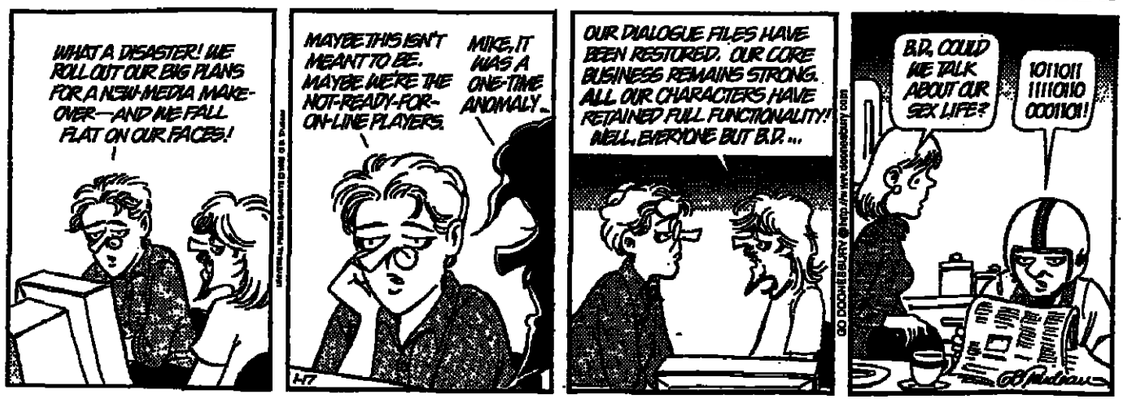
JUST ONE more point, though, about the notorious Bensons. EW, the Archbishop, is frequently credited with inventing the service of nine lessons and carols as broadcast every Christmas Eve from Cambridge. The service was launched in Truro when he commanded that diocese. But does he deserve the credit? Possibly not. A letter this week in the Daily Mail's rip-off of the Guardian's Notes And Queries (it's called Answers To Correspondents) alleges that Benson blatantly lifted the notion from the parish *church of St George* in the same Cornish city. "It just proves he's his own man," I expect some reverend spokesman said later.

JOE ROSS writes from Lewes, Sussex: "It was kind of you to allow an apprentice to contribute to your column of January 10. You yourself, of course, would not have referred to Tasmin Little without pointing out that her name is a variant of Tamsin (itself a diminutive of Thomasina) and thus an example of metathesis — the transposition of two sounds and or/letters in a word."

Touché! as the Marquis of Vauvenargues once observed in a totally different context. Tamsins are rife; but Tasmins are rare. I shall never again sit through another of Tasmin's divine performances without whispering to my neighbour: this artist is methathetical.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



THE WORST OF MY WEEK...

...SAYS COLUMNIST LAUREN BOOTH: "Was when certain tabloids jumped to the wrong conclusion about who I was/was not seeing romantically. I kiss lots of men! If every time I kiss a male friend they appear in the tabloids, none of my male friends will go near me. So the best moment would have to be the accusations that my alleged new boyfriend was a laddish gold smuggler and, thankfully, not an MP."

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Is this the road to hell? Members of a German cult which is determined to commit mass suicide on Mount Teide have been thwarted twice. Will it be third time unlucky?

MARK MECKLENBURGH

This way Armageddon

Special investigation by Rory Carroll
with Adela Gooch in Madrid, Denis Staunton in Berlin and Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

Tonight, as the sun slides into the Atlantic and casts Tenerife into darkness, the men from the Policia Local will flick on their headlights and trundle towards Mount Teide. The chatter from bars and pounding disco beats will fade into silence as their white Ford and Seat patrol cars begin ascending the 12,198ft dormant volcano.

Trees quickly thin out, leaving only a barren landscape on either side of the narrowing dirt track. The policemen will keep peering into the blackening gloom, looking for signs of life, fearing they will find only death.

It is here that a doomsday cult has chosen to commit mass suicide. Come twilight, 13 men, 13 women and five children, members of a German cult, could emerge from the shadows around the summit and drink from drums of poison. If all goes according to plan, they will make a clearing among the rocks, lie down, close their eyes and slip away, leaving behind 31 corpses, shattered families and a catastrophe for the authorities.

That is the grim outcome the Spanish police must now try to avoid. The challenge is not a theoretical one: on January 7, after months of monitoring, they did just that. Tipped off by Interpol, they raided an organic farm in Arafo, near Santa Cruz, the island's capital and arrested 32 cult members, some huddled in tents, just hours, it is thought, before a planned mass suicide. A "last supper" with suspected poison was removed.

Then last Monday there was a second alert when reports came through that some of the cult members had phoned relatives back in Germany to say a final goodbye. This time the Spanish police took no chances and rounded up the group, now reduced to 16 adults and three children, and took them into protective custody overnight. But in Spain committing suicide is not an offence, and on Tuesday morning the group, all German except for one Spaniard, were released for a second time. They promptly piled into taxis and returned to Arafo, where the eyes of the world now watch, waiting for them to emulate the departed souls of Heaven's Gate, Solar Temple, Waco and Jonestown.

The police are desperate. The cult is law-abiding and entitled to go about its business without harassment. "We can monitor the situation but we can't control people's will," an officer involved in the case said. "What do you do? Follow each person into bed, into the bathroom? That's impossible. But then, if they do succeed, who gets the blame..."

A patrol car stands guard outside the farmhouse but 24-hour surveillance on individual members is impossible. And if they were spotted about to drink poison, what would the police shout? "Stop or I shoot"? Not much of a threat when members believe the apocalypse is nigh and that an alien spaceship will land on the Teide volcano and take their souls to rebirth in the solar system of the star Sirius.

So it has become a race against the clock. The end of the world, the cult believed, was due at 8pm sharp on January 8. It clearly didn't happen then. But how much longer will it be before the group tries, successfully, to commit collective suicide?

Whether it comes to this hinges on one issue: do the 31 members really believe, without an ounce of doubt, that a spaceship will pick up their bodies? That the world is about to end? That God has taken human form in the portly body of a 57-year-old German psychologist, Heide Fittkau-Garthe, their inspiration and leader?

Yes, seems to be the answer. And they say it calmly, reasonably, without bulging eyes or foam at the mouth. Most are, after all, decent, university-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Germans. Space cadets don't come more respectable.

Their road to Mount Teide began in crowded halls around Germany where Fittkau-Garthe, a respected lecturer at Hamburg University and a TV pundit, gave seminars to captivated businessmen on management training, meditation and dealing with personal trauma. Unknown to most of her audiences, she drifted into the Indian Brahma Kumaris sect before leaving the university in 1993. Divorced, with a 21-year-old son, she developed a divine cult around her own person and called herself Aida, or the source.

She recruited a hard core of 25 disciples from her seminars and divided her time between Hamburg and Tenerife, where she owns the farmhouse at which the cult members were discovered last week. She told them the unresolved past of wandering souls was the source of all aggression. Cassettes recorded her ideas in a soothing voice against a background of synthesiser music.

Neighbours in Tenerife described Dr Fittkau-Garthe as a pleasant woman who spent regular periods on the farm. She herself claimed her visitors were patients who had come to the Canaries for therapeutic rest.

Enrique Torres, her lawyer, says members of the group were on holiday and denied any intention to commit suicide. In this account, Fittkau-Garthe is a humanitarian providing safe haven for abused women and people with psychological problems. But this fails to explain why, according to relatives of disciples, some members had begun by last year to call her God. Or why she said the world would end on January 8 and that she would protect them.

Inspired by the Order of the Solar Temple, whose followers carried out mass suicides in Canada, France and Switzerland, they didn't intend to be among the doomed losers left on Earth. Sirius beckoned. It was simply a question of hitching a ride with aliens via ritual suicide. Beam me up potty, as the Sun said.

And they're not even mad, or even necessarily gullible. According to some mental health professionals who study cults, they are just like us: worried at the direction society is taking, not sure what they want out of life and vaguely dissatisfied with job and family.

Barry Hart, a clinical psychologist, says the typical cult member was often bright and had potential earning power — which is why they were recruited. "It's the sons and daughters of people who read the Guardian, not the Sun. They turn their backs on orthodox religion but have needs for spiritual growth, a genuine search for meaning in life. Crazy people don't usually get into cults."

Dr Hart estimates that Britain contains 500 cults with up to 500,000 members. The approaching millennium is likely to swell that number.

Neither coincidence nor cheaper rents result in so many cults locating in remote areas. Cut off from friends, family and the outside world, members become rationed to one source of information, the leader. Often with no TV, no radio, no newspapers, there is nothing to question the increasingly doom-laden world-view they are fed.

Chris Soames did not quite fit the bill when he drifted into the London Church of Christ in 1990, but the Spanish police combing Mount Teide are unlikely to take comfort from his story: "People think you become a slave with no mind of your own; that simply isn't the case. You have to be more active and believe what you're doing is right."

Despite retaining links with his family and resenting the oppressive hierarchy, Chris, who left the cult three years ago, was at one stage willing to die for it. "We planned to smuggle [ourselves] into Iran to seek converts. If we were caught we would've been killed, but I didn't care because I felt absolutely sure we were right."

Such cast-iron certainty among cult members is what spurs the patrols around Mount Teide and makes Dr Hart pessimistic: "The Spanish police will not prevent people killing themselves. If they want to do it, they'll do it."

Any lingering doubts in the cultists' minds about the wisdom of suicide are likely to have evaporated the moment they were arrested. A Roman battering ram persuaded 1,000 Jews at Masada to commit suicide in AD73. Fears that visiting US Congressmen heralded the break up of Jonestown prompted the Reverend Jim Jones and 914 followers to turn the Guyana jungle into their graveyard in November 1978. A law enforcement siege signalled a conflagration for David Koresh and his Branch Davidians at Waco, Texas, in April 1993.

Such precedents will hardly warm the hearts of the Santa Cruz police officers. The first glimpse of their blue shirts bursting in the door could have been confirmation to Fittkau-Garthe's disciples that exit from the cosmic stage was finally set.

The one ace held by police is Fittkau-Garthe herself. She remains in custody charged with incitement to suicide, which is an offence under Spanish law. Unless she really is God she is not able to communicate with her cult. Conditioned to obedience and dependency, what do they do now? Stick with plan A and head for Mount Teide? Sit tight and wait? Get a good lawyer? Some reports say half of the sect have returned to Germany. But even if true the remnants, judging by precedent, remain a serious liability to Tenerife's fun-loving reputation.

Jehovah's Witnesses have stayed loyal through several false Armageddons. More worrying still, many followers of the Aum Supreme Truth cult have rallied to their imprisoned leader, Shoko Asahara, since the 1995 Sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway, and more than a third of those members put in prison have returned to the cult, fearful that they would go to hell if they remained outside it. Heaven's Gate, whose members committed suicide en route to a spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp comet, is back in business recruiting on the Internet.

So tonight policemen will resume their vigil on top of Mount Teide. Standing amid the rocks and boulders, the archipelago splayed out below will melt into the darkness from 7pm as lights from bars and discos begin to glimmer. Even in winter Sirius, a solar system away, can be seen clearly. Tenerife's tourist board says it looks very pretty.

Cult successes and failures ... Heide Fittkau-Garthe, left, and Ulrike Pinkwart, a follower picked up last week; Solar Temple suicides
PHOTOGRAPHS: FRAN PALLERO, top, EDI ENGELER, above

You're singing my song. No, *you're* singing *my* song ...

When is a cover not a cover? **Adam Sweeting** on why pop homage is landing stars in trouble

Torn apart: Natalie Imbruglia, left, and Trine Rein
PHOTOGRAPHS: TERRY MCGOUGH AND SVEND AAGE MORTENSEN

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and in the music industry, it's the most lucrative too. Songs such as Stairway To Heaven and Smoke Gets In Your Eyes have been successfully covered to death, in wildly contrasting versions. So why has the Sun been getting worked up about Natalie Imbruglia's hit, Torn? Because, according to Andy Coulson, editor of the paper's Bizarre section, Imbruglia's version of the song bears a miraculously close resemblance to Norwegian singer Trine Rein's recording, which topped the Norwegian charts in 1995.

"The point of our story is that Natalie Imbruglia's record is exactly the same as a record that was released two years before," Coulson explains. "We're not suggesting, nor have we ever suggested, that she wrote the song, or that she's claimed to have written the song. What we're saying is that a record that was a massive hit at the end of last year was effectively released two years before by somebody else, in an identical form."

The Sun also suggested that Imbruglia made no effort to dispel a widely shared illusion that the song, if not written by her, was written specifically for her. Imbruglia's record company, RCA, is not amused. "RCA didn't respond to this story because it's not an issue," said a press officer. "Natalie has never claimed to have written the song, although she has written 10 of the songs on her album Left Of The Middle."

Coulson's cause has been boosted by Chris Evans, who mixed in and out of the two versions of Torn on his radio show on Thursday to demonstrate that they are indeed almost interchangeable. Is Imbruglia's hit not so much a cover version, more of a clone?

As Coulson admits, Imbruglia hasn't broken any laws, and no doubt the Sun has indulged in some journalistic licence because "Singer records cover version" wouldn't make much of a headline. But the story hints at the broader issue of what's original and what's not in the record biz. If plagiarism is familiar in the publishing industry, how much more pervasive might it be in music, where technology permits all kinds of aural sleight of hand?

There have been lots of high-profile plagiarism cases. George Harrison was judged to have plundered The Chiffons' He's So Fine for his 1971 hit My Sweet Lord, and bluesman Willie Dixon extracted compensation from Led Zeppelin for turning his song You Need Love into Whole Lotta Love, while Michael Jackson's album Dangerous was banned in Italy after a court decided that Jackson had "borrowed" a song by crooner Al Bano for his song, Will You Be There.

But these were comparatively simple examples of one song bearing an obvious resemblance to another. The new era of digital sampling has thrown up far more complicated questions of ownership and authenticity. If a rap act samples a drum beat from a James Brown record, or borrows the characteristic pinging sounds from the 1967 Buffalo Springfield song For What It's Worth, how much acknowledgement should be made, and how much money are the original artists owed? When Coolio, Puff Daddy or PM Dawn have hits with modified hip-hop versions of songs by Stevie Wonder, Sting or Spandau Ballet, where is credit really due?

At least the whole process has made everybody acknowledge that copyrights can't be infringed without incurring heavy fines. The wise artist will make an accommodation with the plunderee before releasing their disc, as Oasis did when lifting a chunk of Gary Glitter's Hello, Hello I'm Back Again on their song Hello (even if they didn't feel it necessary to acknowledge a debt to John Lennon's Imagine or to Mott The Hoople's All The Young Dudes, which arguably are echoed in Don't Look Back In Anger).

The Rolling Stones pre-empted litigation from k.d. lang by confessing that their recent single Anybody Seen My Baby bore an amazing resemblance to lang's Constant Craving. Have Mick and Keith noticed how much The Verve's Bittersweet Symphony pays homage to The Last Time?

Meanwhile, what next for the Imbruglia imbroglio? More dosh all round, probably. EMI will release Trine Rein's version of Torn in this country next month. Imbruglia herself will doubtless go from strength to strength. "I don't know why RCA have got their knickers in a twist about this," says Coulson. "The irony is that sales of Natalie's record will probably now go up."

arts

Who inspired Eve Arnold to pick up a box Brownie? Cleo Laine to air her tonsils? **Caroline Egan** asks performers and artists...

Who was your role model?

MARTIN McDONAGH, playwright, on **KURT COBAIN**
Most of my influences are from pop culture because of its speed, honesty, youth. Kurt Cobain's basic appeal is cathartic. He was a skilled songwriter, and his music's great to dance to when you're drunk. More than that, I admired his honesty, and through his rage he produced great tunes. I would listen to his anger and admire the creative quality of his destruction. I began to see connections with my own life.

I dislike 95 per cent of theatre I see or read about, so I have learned to destroy those negative feelings and include the angry quality in my own work. Cobain taught me you can only be true to yourself and only believe your own opinion, ignoring any negative and positive forces coming from the outside.

The saddest thing about Cobain is that he would have gone on to create so much more had he lived. He created more in his short life than most people who have been around for 40 or 50 years.

EVELYN GLENNIE, percussionist, on **GLENN GOULD**
One of my greatest musical influences is the late Canadian pianist Glenn Gould. One minute I can find crystal-clear words to describe him and why he is of such importance to me; the next I am speechless.

The mechanics of Gould's piano-playing were remarkable. His daring, experimental, erotic musicianship inspired an almost religious fervour, and continues to do so through his many recordings and films. He was an advocate of new music. Often when I'm dealing with a new piece of music and slight tension is brewing, I simply discover Glenn once more and realise the ease, direction and emotion he brought to modern works. He spelt out the word "individual": do your own thing.

SKIN, singer from Skunk Anansie, on **ANGELA DAVIS**
Role models? Who wants 'em? That phrase has always left me perplexed and irritated. After all, who can be that perfect, that important, that slimy? Most characters that have rocked my world would have curled their lip at being described like that. But if there's one individual I'd love to hang with, it's Angela Davis.

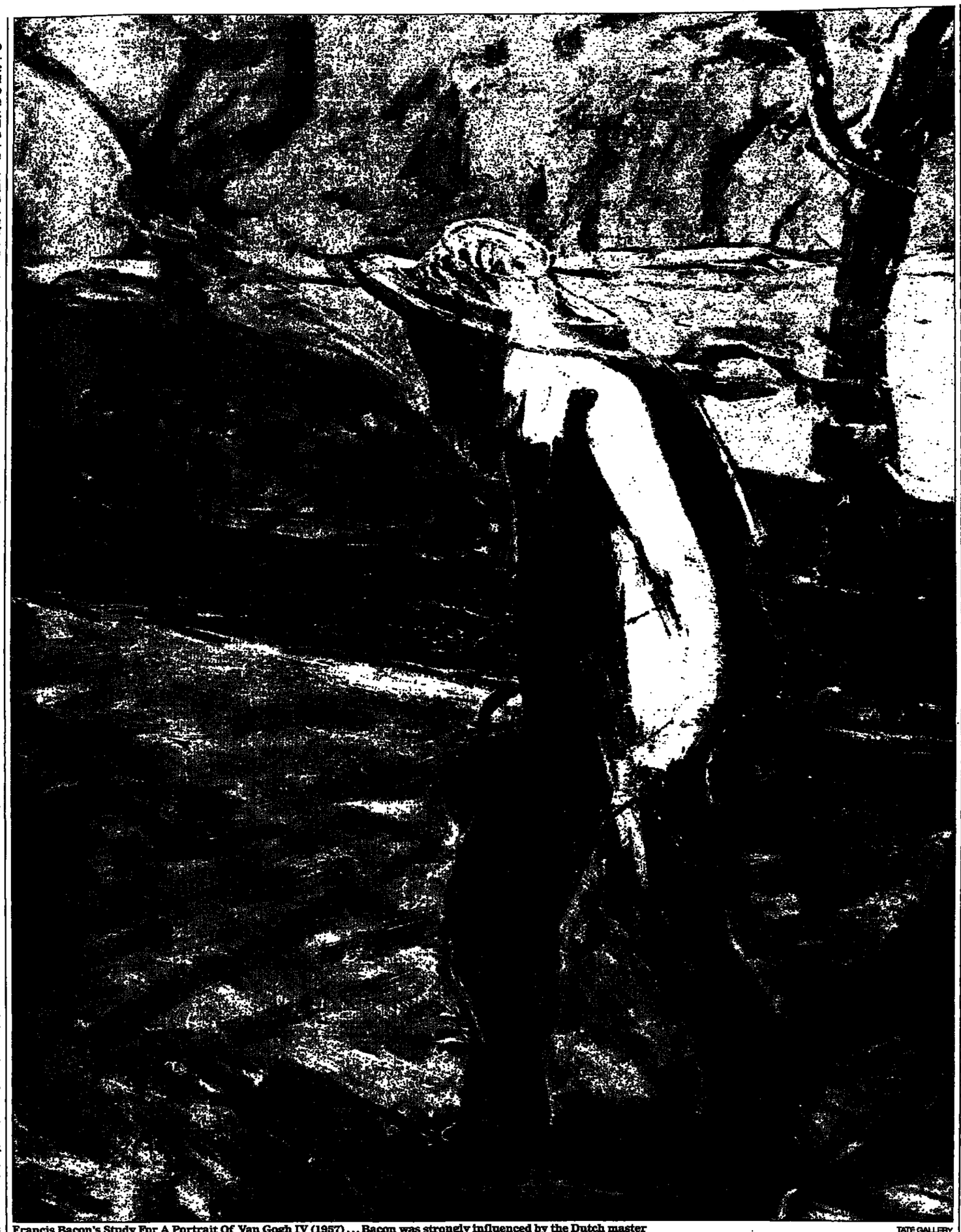
She was one of the main figures in the war against racial oppression in the US in the late sixties and seventies. She's known mainly for her victory over the US government after being on the FBI's list of 10 most wanted fugitives, but since then she has been an exceptional, tireless and wise voice as a lecturer and writer for the cause.

I first came across Davis's work during my idealist student years. I'd heard about her, but I hadn't checked out what she was about and what she'd done. I bought a second-hand book about her Marxist ideas and another book she'd written about her life, and I've been hooked ever since.

At the time I was very active in any group that had an "ism" after it and I was struck by how unselfish she was compared with the power-hungry wankers that had infected the student union. I was this skinny nigger who had subconsciously been fed an identity that stated I wasn't British, and here was this woman who hadn't internalised her insecurities but was using her anger to fight for what she knew was the fair way to treat people. She wasn't up against music journalists that thought she was a clichéd heavy metaller; she was up against a government that wanted to eliminate her because of her belief that blacks were not inferior to whites. I found that extremely powerful and humbling.

PETER HALL, former director of the Old Vic, on **MICHEL SAINT-DENIS**
The man I think about the most is the great French theatre director and teacher Michel Saint-Denis. He founded the Old Vic theatre school and spent the last years of his life with me. Peter Brook and the RSC in the sixties. He inspired actors like John Gielgud and Peggy Ashcroft. He was very European, not parochial. He had met Brecht and Stanislavsky. He understood theatre and treated it seriously; but not in a pompous way.

Saint-Denis believed that if you ask people to spend two hours of their life with your work, you have to be responsible. You can't be cynical. You can't just pass the time. He had an absolute nose for anything phoney. His favourite word was "truth", although that has a Pseud's Corner ring to it. He could sniff out anything false. If you weren't in a reasonably good state as a human being, he thought, you couldn't produce anything worthwhile. I loved him very much. He's almost forgotten now. The last generation that remember him includes Dorothy Tutin, Ian Holm and Judi Dench.



Francis Bacon's Study For A Portrait Of Van Gogh IV (1957)... Bacon was strongly influenced by the Dutch master TATE GALLERY

EVE ARNOLD, photographer, on **HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON**
I think Cartier-Bresson is the greatest living photographer. He's done just about all of his work on the streets. It's real and unposed: he doesn't set anything up but simply takes the picture with a single small camera. He is extremely perceptive. He feels a place or person or image, so very often the picture doesn't need a caption or explanation. He's not a photo-journalist but a surrealist.

I met him when I was just starting out as a new member of the Magnum group of photographers (which he helped to start). I was very interested in his photography. I studied the way he worked and became very influenced by it. I still think of him as a master and owe him a deep debt of gratitude, not only because of his work but because of what Magnum is responsible for — photographers owning their own copyright. He is still working, and I am still charmed by his work. Someone once said of Cartier-Bresson that he was in a class of his own. He is extraordinarily gifted.

SIMON McBURNEY, director of Theatre de Complicite, on **JOHN BERGER**
Influences change through life, but someone who has become very important to me is John Berger, for a number of reasons — not just because I adapted his short stories. In the early eighties he broadcast a programme about time in which he was discussing the difference between film and photography. Film is about the future: we're always looking forward to what is happening next. Photography disappears into the past.

What you do on stage is related to the present. Part of the power of theatre, the place it holds in people's lives, is to do with their conception of time — which is so different from previous generations', particularly as we approach the millennium. We see things in the recent past or the recent future, ultimately squashing out the far future, the deep past and the present. I have tried to create theatre where things happen at this moment when actors are inventing in front of the audience's eyes, relying on a degree of improvisation that changes every night. This heightens the audience's perception. Every play chosen, every scene, every subject matter is strongly related to this moment and how it's going to touch people.

When I met John, it was inevitable that we would get on incredibly well — and we did. He has a way of living in the world and looking at it that is easy, direct, absolutely incisive. Principally he deals with words, and I have always been fascinated by gesture. The way he goes about his work is an inspiration. My relations with him have been tremendously liberating, and he has had a critical effect on the work I do.

CLEO LAINE, jazz singer, on **JOHN DANKWORTH**
Early on, my parents were my inspiration. My father was a singer. He had a great musical knowledge and transferred his love of music to me. My mother was not as musical, but she played the piano and sent me for lessons. The sounds filled the house. My love of music led me to my husband. I auditioned for his jazz band, the Johnny Dankworth Seven, and joined it in 1951. I loved jazz, and the band became my teachers. I knew so little about it, but I soon picked it up.

Other than that, I haven't had people I've wanted to be like: I've always been pretty happy being myself. I've wanted to improve vocally, though, so in my early stages I listened to the three ladies of the period — Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, just to find out how they did it. I loved Billie's drama and Ella's technical ability, the capacity for improvisation. I've often wondered if it was as natural as it sounded. There are hints that Ella played the piano a bit, but most of her time she seemed to spend dancing in the streets. And then there was Sarah with that glorious operatic voice — maybe a bit too much sometimes, but really wonderful. You can get whatever you want from those three.

GREG PROOPS, comedian, on **GEORGE CARLIN**
I discovered George Carlin when I was at high school, where we would listen to his comedy albums. Even back in the sixties he was doing stuff that was a bit risky, stuff that wouldn't be allowed now on TV, but it forced the audience to think. I met him recently and he said he was so high on coke at the time he can barely remember what he did.

He impresses me not just because he's very funny but because his routine still works. He invented observational humour, but not in a Bill Cosby anecdotal way. He's a serious wordsmith — he's so pithy, he cuts right to it. He pushes the craft of stand-up comedy towards dialogue, moving away from just telling jokes. And he actually has something to say. Sadly, no one in the US bothers to make a point on stage.

Carlin is utterly fearless — you have to be in comedy — and he's never cared what people think.

HENRY GOODMAN, actor, on **JULIET STEVENSON**
I was very wary of role models when starting out. As a young boy I saw Olivier, of course, but I didn't aspire to be like him. Looking around for people in the landscape I live in — London theatre — Juliet Stevenson stands out for her emotional honesty. Theatre calls on us actors to use passion in our work with great skill and honesty. I first saw her in Measure For Measure at the RSC in the early eighties, and I remember feeling her drive and humanity. She has this ability to listen to her own voice yet resist temptation in a theatre ruled by egocentricity, to be herself while integrating with her community.

When I look at Juliet's work, from Truly Madly Deeply to the recent Caucasian Chalk Circle, I see a reluctance to get trapped by the limitations of careerism. She pushes herself very hard to share being an artist with the audience, combining humility and passion with huge ambition and hunger.

MEERA SYAL, actress and writer, on **VICTORIA WOOD**
The first time I saw Victoria Wood on New Faces I was only a kid, but even then I was thinking about writing and performing. This was a time when there were hardly any women performing their own material on TV — or anywhere else — and I thought she was startling. She wasn't glamorous or apologetic. She didn't seek approval from anyone but was very accessible: you can just imagine having a cup of tea with her. She takes the piss out of people while being sympathetic to them and understanding them, and she's very subversive. She takes an average housewife and and gives her wild sexual fantasies.

I always feel the generosity of spirit beneath her comedy. She surrounds herself with strong people and doesn't hog the limelight. I was so encouraged to see women on TV who didn't conform to the Dallas stereotype that I felt able to do stuff about my sensibilities and my world. No one was writing for me, so I had to do it.

IAN BOSTRIDGE, tenor, on **DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU**
I first heard Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau — the great lieder-singer of the 20th century — in my German lessons at school. He has the most beautiful voice. I felt a real sense of communication, although I didn't know what he was saying exactly. When I was a teenager, I listened to lots of his records, and then later to his recitals.

I met him three years ago and had a lesson with him, which was really exciting. We sang together the song I had first heard him sing — Die Schöne Müllerin. I found it overwhelming. I had idolised him as a lieder-singer for so long and never thought I'd do it.

He doesn't sing any more now, so I don't suppose I'll ever perform with him professionally. But maybe you shouldn't work with your role model. Fischer-Dieskau's performances are virtually perfect, so it would be daunting for me to have him looking over my shoulder. One advantage is that we don't have the same voice — he's a baritone, I'm a tenor.

I don't really aspire to be Fischer-Dieskau any more. Sometimes I might have him in the back of my mind, but now I do my own thing and try to forget him. Role models can be inspiring, but it's something you move away from.

PETER ANDRE, pop singer, on **STEVIE WONDER**
No one inspires me all the time, in every way, but Stevie Wonder is probably my main musical role model. When I was a little kid growing up in London, I used to listen to him all the time on the radio. Even when I was five or six, his music could determine my mood, make me feel great.

As an adult I'm motivated by lots of different styles. When I wrote the lyrics for my new album, I thought it more important to tell a story — something you're experiencing in your mind and can then communicate to other people. Stevie is one of those people who can give great meaning to his songs: it's not what he writes but how he sings his words. He has taught me to illustrate the lyrics with emotion.

One of Stevie's best songs is Ribbon In The Sky. He was able to visualise everything he sang. I think people like visuals — as the saying goes: "Seeing is believing." I've never seen him live. Every time I tried to, I just missed him.

DAVID HAIG, actor, on **MAX STAFFORD CLARK**
The first time Max Stafford Clark's work struck me was an amazing scene in his Irish production of The Seagull. Anton Lesser and Harriet Walters were sitting on a bench talking, and I felt as if I was overhearing a private conversation. Max caught the emotion, making it more potent. I was astonished.

He was the first director I had come across who seemed to completely support a method of acting that wasn't grandiose but a careful, accurate reproduction of behaviour, which seemed to explain why people do the things they do. It's a technique I've used ever since. So it was the fulfilment of a dream to work with him.

The first time was on The Arbour by Andrea Dunbar, a powerful play on a Bradford housing estate. He was quite a frightening figure in those days, and I was in awe of his status. He had a laser-like quality of directing. Every time you were feeling smug or complacent, he would suddenly set you back and make you reassess everything you had achieved.

His commitment to the theatre is uncompromising, from his time at the Royal Court, where he produced brilliant stuff, to his recent Shopping And Fucking.

We have similar backgrounds and personalities. We're both obsessive and come from a certain world and way of behaving. When I started writing my own play, he was the first person I sent an early sketch to. His advice radically altered the course of the play.

'Even when I was five or six, his music could determine my mood, make me feel great' **Peter Andre** on Stevie Wonder

'It was so encouraging to see women on TV who didn't conform to the Dallas stereotype' **Meera Syal** on Victoria Wood

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Racing

Easterby chaser can prove equal to the challenge

Ron Cox

PETER EASTERBY won plenty of good prizes at Ascot during his time as the country's top dual-purpose trainer, and since taking over the reins at Great Habton nearly two years ago his son Tim has readily upheld the Malton stable's fine tradition.

Tim has sent just six jumpers to Ascot and three of them have won, including Simply Dashing in the valuable First National Bank Gold Cup in November.

It goes without saying that Cumbrian Challenge is not making the trip south for today's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase for the good of his health.

The nine-year-old is on a roll, having reeled off four consecutive wins at Wetherby. He has also shown useful form over the tricky Ascot chase course, will not be troubled by the testing ground and remains on a favourable mark despite a 4lb penalty.

Like so many chasers who enjoy a good novice season, Cumbrian Challenge rather struggled in handicaps the following one. But he has bounced right back and it is worth recalling some of his excellent efforts in 1995/96.

He won four times and ran particularly well in defeat against Ask Tom at Haydock when, attempting to concede 3lb, he was beaten just a length and a quarter. Cumbrian Challenge was third behind Senor El Betrutti and Challenger du Luc, giving both 7lb, at Ascot, and earlier won by 25 lengths over today's course and distance.

Little wonder he paid the price in handicaps last season. But, having been cleverly placed at Wetherby this time, he looks ready for a step back up in class.

The absence of original topweight Ask Tom and subsequent 11lb rise in the weights has helped Cumbrian Challenge, who was languishing 4lb out of the handicap, but Mulligan looks vulnerable having to give weight all round. He has fallen in three of his last four outings and is badly in need of a confidence-restorer.

Despite finishing third to Ask Tom at Sandown, Or Royal gives the impression he is more effective on a left-hand course. He was at his best when winning last season's Arkle Chase at Cheltenham, but might struggle to confirm that form with third-placed Celibate, who is 9lb better off for six and a half lengths.

Celibate put a few below-par efforts behind him with a resounding six-lengths defeat of Lord Dorcet at Ascot last month, when the going was a lot more testing than the official description of good to soft would suggest.

Lord Dorcet, who was making his seasonal debut and has a 4lb pull with Celibate, appeared to show vast improvement against Viking Flagship at Wetherby. But the proximity of Down The Fell in third shows just how misleading that form is, and Celibate is once again preferred.

Jeffell, from the in-form Irish stable of Arthur Moore, beat Celibate a length and a half on level terms at Punchestown last season and has been well backed this week. He needs everything to go his way, though, and ran badly behind Simply Dashing here in November.

Cumbrian Challenge (2.20) has looked a tricky ride on occasions, but has battled away this season and can provide the Easterby stable with another Ascot success at the main expense of Celibate.

The Teal And Green Handicap Hurdle will be a race worthy of close scrutiny. The 14 runners include Bellator, who has already been backed for the Tote Gold Trophy and shaped quite well on his belated reappearance at Sandown.

The Toby Balding stable has been right out of form, however, and it remains to be seen whether Bellator has retained the ability which enabled him to win twice early last season.

L'Opera's poor comeback run is probably best ignored, but with the ground very much in his favour Red Blazer (3.55) looks the answer. He is unlucky not to be unbeaten over hurdles and is very highly rated by Henrietta Knight.

On a marathon card at Warwick, the lightly-weighted and progressive Ceridwen (2.35) can show the way in the marathon Tote Warwick National Chase.

Following a promising pipe-opener over fences at Ayr, Cittadino (4.00) could prove very well treated in the James Robson Clark Handicap Chase at Newcastle.

Sheikh Mohammed supports BHB plea for financial help

SHEIKH Mohammed and Hamdan Al Maktoum have given their support to the British Horseracing Board's newly unveiled financial plan, *writes Tony Paley.*

They have urged the BHB to put the plan to the Government "as soon as possible", but Sheikh Mohammed repeated his threat that his family will quit racing in Britain if a "fairer" financial structure is not introduced.

The pair's comments came after BHB director Peter Savill hailed as a success the visit he and John Gosden made to Dubai to discuss the financial plan, published two days ago, with the two leading owners in Dubai.

Sheikh Hamdan delivered one blow to British racing yesterday with his decision to move Middle Park Stakes winner Hayil and 11 other ex-David Morley horses to be trained in France.

The announcement came hot on the heels of the news that Melanie Morley will not take over High Havens Stables in Newmarket.

Mrs Morley initially took out a temporary licence following her husband David's death earlier this month.

Celeric's victory in the Ascot Gold Cup last June was the biggest victory enjoyed by Morley, who died on January 5 at the age of 58. Celeric is one of more than 30 horses left at High Havens.

Top-quality stock . . . Morstock (right) clears the third last on his way to winning the Easter Hero Chase at Kempton PHOTO: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Zafarabad win has Triumph written all over it

Tony Paley

ZAFARABAD leapt to the head of the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle betting with a smooth victory on his jumping debut at Kempton yesterday.

The grey, installed 8-1 favourite by Ladbrokes but still available at 12-1 with Hill's, comfortably kicked away from Borazon to clinch the Walton Juvenile Novice Hurdle by two-and-a-half lengths.

Ireland's Rainbow Frontier is the Tote's 8-1 favourite, while Rainwatch, who beat Borazon by three lengths on his last start, remains at the head of Hill's prices on 10-1.

Trainer David Nicholson last lifted the juvenile hurdling crown when the prolific Mysilv struck in 1994 and has high hopes for his latest recruit. "He's been a natural since day one," he enthused.

Zafarabad was secured privately from the Aga Khan for Elaine Baines after he ran fifth in the German Derby. He initially joined Roger Charlton with a view to running on the Flat and worked with Pentad.

But Pentad, rated superior on the level, found Zafarabad different class over jumps here as he trailed in more than 40 lengths adrift in seventh. Road Racer, 7-4 favourite, was up against a potentially smart debutant in Cool Edge, a Group Three winner on the Flat, in the Ashford Novice Hurdle, but that rival ran out of stamina turning into the straight and was eased down to finish seventh as Road Racer romped to a 21-length success from Dual Or Bust.

Although he handled yesterday's soft surface, similar conditions at Cheltenham could rule him out, according to trainer Paul Webber.

"Road Racer is developing into a nice horse, but he won't go to Cheltenham if it is soft. He might be more of a Liverpool horse," he said.

Isitoff finished second to Road Racer on his debut at Ludlow and followed it up by taking division two of the Ashford Novice Hurdle by 10 lengths.

Stan Mellor, who broke a four-months losing spell over jumps when Americanval denied diabetic Jonothan Lower a comeback win on Thursday, struck again with Royal Arctic in the Staines RFC Conditional Jockeys' Novice Handicap Hurdle.

Banned rider David Walsh is on the verge of making a comeback after admitting he misses "the buzz of racing".

The reigning joint champion conditional jockey has not ridden since he received a one-month ban last May after traces of amphetamines were found in his sample in a drug test.

He had been thought likely to sit out the whole season, but has now revealed that he plans to return soon after winning a battle against weight problems.

● Carlisle will hold a 3.00pm inspection tomorrow to decide if the meeting scheduled for Tuesday can go ahead. The going is currently described as heavy, soft in places with the racecourse affected by waterlogged patches.

Ascot programme with TV form guide

	RON COX	TOP FORM
1.15	Ever Blessed	Ivor's Flutter
1.45	Oban	Super Tactics
2.20	Cumbrian Challenge	Or Royal (nap)
2.55	Karalda	Sydney Twothousand
3.25	Wayward King	Wayward King
3.55	Red Blazer	Baron Boy (nb)

Testing, right-handed triangular course of 1¾m with 240yds run-in, mostly uphill. Stiff fences.
Going: Soft. Hurdles course heavy in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Lord Dorcet (2.20), J A Charlton, Northumberland, 297 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.55 Harbet House. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.Flat.

1.15 VICTOR CHANDLER NOVICE HURDLE 2m 4f £3,778 (15 declared) BBC1

101	1311	Farfadet V (38) (D) M Pipe 5-11-8	J Lower	85
102	02/123	Ivor's Flutter (22) (BF) D Elsworth 9-11-8	G Bradley	●90
103	33-12	No Gimmicks (42) J FitzGerald 6-11-4	L Wyer	86
104	4-1	Royal Toast (28) N Henderson 6-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	87
105	3-00	Brush With Fame (21) P Hobbs 6-11-0	G Tormey	—
106	08	Buck Board (42) R Brackenbury 8-11-0	R Massey (3)	—
107	123-2	Ever Blessed (21) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0	A P McCoy	88
108	00-5	Icelord Glory (57) C Morlock 6-11-0	C Llewellyn	—
109	22-0P4	Marble City (30) M Pernan 5-11-0	R Dunwoody	85
110	2	Pe's Cruiser (107) D Turner 6-11-0	A Thornton	—
111		Power Don (F519) F Coton 5-11-0	Mr N Kent	—
112	403	Proceed (17) J Gifford 6-11-0	P Hide	83
113	U-00	Tirley Gale (43) J Smith 6-11-0	L Cummins (5)	—
114	04P-03	Tudor Tower (82) P Purdy 10-11-0	S Burrough	79
115	04	Shelbes Dream (19) H Howe 5-10-9	G Shenkin (7)	85

Betting: 2-1 Ever Blessed, 7-2 Farfadet V, 9-2 Royal Toast, 7-1 Ivor's Flutter, No Gimmicks, 10-1 Marble City, 14-1 Proceed, 25-1 Brush With Fame.

FORM GUIDE - Farfadet V: Made all, mistake 7th, clear 5th, unchallenged, beating Be My Mot 15l at Plumpton 2m4f nov hdl, St. Ivor's Flutter: Held up rear, ridden and headway approaching 2 out, never nearer, 3rd of 10, 7l behind Backhouse Boy at Wincanton 2m6f hcap hdl, Gd-Sft. No Gimmicks: Tracked leaders, ridden to challenge 3 out, outpaced next, kept on flat, 2nd of 9, 3l behind Ardenian at Wetherby 2m7f nov hdl, Gd. Royal Toast: Headway 5th, led flat, driven out, beating Ashley Royal 13l at Lingfield 2m nov hdl, Gd-Sft. Buck Board: Chased leaders until weakened approaching 7th, tailed off, 6th of 8, well behind Total Force at Cheltenham 2m5f nov hdl, Gd. Ever Blessed: Held up, headway 7th, chased winner 4 out, ran on well, 2nd of 10, nk behind Champleve, with Brush With Fame (levels) unseated rider at 1st, at Chepstow 2m4f nov hdl, Hvy. Icelord Glory: Always behind, tailed off, 5th of 8, well behind Brackenheath at Ascot 3m nov hdl, Sft. Marble City: Always prominent, led 3 out until approaching next, one pace flat, 4th of 16, 5l behind Bracey Run at Towcester 2m nov hdl, Sft. Pe's Cruiser: Lost place and behind 3rd, headway to chase winner 6th, no impression, 2nd of 4, well behind Notta Notte at Taunton 2m3f nov hdl, Fm. Power Don: In touch to 3f out, weakened soon after, 9th of 13, 15l behind Fergo at Southwell 7f claim (fm), Aw. Proceed: Headway 2 out, ran on one pace, 3rd of 15, 12l behind Unsinkable Boxer at Fontwell 2m6f nov hdl, Sft. Tirley Gale: Never troubled leaders, 7th of 16, 38l behind Kadou Nonantais at Hereford 2m1f NH Flat, Gd. Tudor Tower: Always behind, tailed off from 8th, 7th of 10, well behind Studio Thirty at Hereford 2m3f cond nov hcap hdl, Gd.

1.45 MAR LODGE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 3f 110yds £8,216 (6 declared) BBC1

201	3113U	Super Tactics (21) (D) (BF) R Alner 10-11-10	A Thornton	●90
202	31P0 P	Golden Spinner (61) (D) N Henderson 11-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	88
203	211 4P	Terao (83) (D) M Pipe 12-10-13	—	—
204	3 P0t2	Kadi (21) (D) D Nicholson 9-10-10	R Johnson	86
205	1/112	Oban (330) (D) Miss H Knight 8-10-8	G Bradley	85
206	2023 3	Super Coin (217) R Lee 10-10-0	N Williamson	82

Betting: 7-4 Kadi, 9-4 Super Tactics, 4-1 Oban, 6-1 Super Coin, Golden Spinner.
■ Terao's 1st preference Warwick 3.40

FORM GUIDE - Golden Spinner: Behind from 13th, tailed off when pulled up 4 out in race won by Carole's Crusader at Kempton 3m hcap ch, Gd. Kadi: Headway 11th, left 2nd 3 out, hard ridden approaching last, ran on, 2nd of 5, 3l behind Edredon Bleu, Super Tactics (gave 13lb) unseated rider 3 out, at Kempton 2m4f hcap ch, Sft. Oban: Effort 3 out, no extra towards the finish, 2nd of 6, 7l behind Barude Not To at Kempton 3m nov ch, Gd-Sft. Super Coin: Tracked leaders, hit 10th, soon weakened, 3rd of 8, 18l behind Stately Home at Newbury 2m4f hcap ch, Gd-Fm.

2.20 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE 2m £25,945 (9 declared) BBC1

301	11+ 7	Mulligan (42) (D) D Nicholson 8-11-10	R Johnson	87
302	213-33	Or Royal (42) (D) M Pipe 7-11-8	A P McCoy ★	●90
303	-15451	Celibate (28) (4lb ex) (CD) C Mann 7-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	89
304	121 P2	Jeffell (41) (D) A L Moore (IRE) 8-10-11	C O'Dwyer	85
305	33-214	Lostard (28) (CD) (BF) Miss V Williams 11-10-9	N Williamson	85
306	2F6-23	Arctic Kinsman (35) (D) (BF) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-9	C Llewellyn	86
307	524-22	Lord Dorcet (21) (CD) J Charlton 8-10-7	R Dunwoody	84
308	-61111	Cumbrian Challenge (22) (4lb ex) (CD) T Easterby 9-10-7	L Wyer	83
309	3-313U	Native Mission (21) (D) J FitzGerald 11-10-6	A Thornton	82

Betting: 4-1 Celibate, 9-2 Or Royal, 11-2 Lord Dorcet, 6-1 Mulligan, Jeffell, 13-2 Arctic Kinsman, 8-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 10-1 Lostard, 14-1 Native Mission.

FORM GUIDE - Or Royal: Mistake 3rd, headway approaching 3 out, 5th and beaten when hampered 2 out, 3rd of 7, 5l behind Ask Tom, with Mulligan (levels) fell 2 out, at Sandown 2m ch, Gd-Sft. Celibate: Led to 4th, led 7th, hard ridden approaching last, ran on well, beating Lord Dorcet (rec 2lb) 6l, with Lostard (levels) 4th, btn 8l, at Ascot 2m hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Jeffell: Went 2nd 4 out, every chance, no impression, 2nd of 5, 7½l behind Dorans Pride at Fairyhouse 2m4f ch, Gd. Arctic Kinsman: Chased leader, led 8th, clear 4 out, headed approaching last, one pace flat, 3rd of 4, 40l behind Klairon at Cheltenham 2m hcap ch, Gd. Lord Dorcet: Tracked leaders, disputed lead 4 out, led 2 out, headed flat, kept on, 2nd of 4, 2l behind Viking Flagship, with Native Mission (levels) unseated rider at 5th, at Wetherby 2m ch, Gd-Sft. Cumbrian Challenge: Prominent, led approaching last, stayed on well, beat Bramblebery 5l at Wetherby 2m4f hcap ch, Sft.

2.55 DURHAM RANGER NOVICE HURDLE 2m 110yds £3,729 (12 declared)

401	4/20-3	Balled Minstrel (35) (D) J FitzGerald 8-11-6	L Wyer	85
402	1-163	Gaffitax (18) (D) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6	C Llewellyn	82
403	10/PP-	Gentle Tune (330) (D) J R Best 8-11-6	J Culloty	—
404	2	Karalda (68) J Gifford 5-11-6	P Hide	86
405	31/6-0	Lento Adrice (62) (D) G Thorner 7-11-6	A Thornton	—
406	5	Perfect Venue (28) N Henderson 5-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	83
407	5	Royal Shrewsbury (70) Mrs M Jones 8-11-6	D Byrne	—
408	0066	Sale To Assume (18) R Bradington 7-11-6	R Massey (3)	—
409	13-20	Simons Castle (43) (D) R O'Sullivan 5-11-6	N Williamson	83
410	2-	Sydney Twothousand (368) Miss H Knight 8-11-6	G Bradley	●90
411	0P-	Tarakhel (458) N Smith 5-11-6	M Sheratt	—
412		Toulon Boy (F82) G Balding 5-11-6	B Fenton	—

Betting: 5-2 Karalda, 4-1 Sydney Twothousand, 9-2 Balled Minstrel, 6-1 Gaffitax, 7-1 Perfect Venue, 8-1 Simons Castle.

3.25 PETER ROSS NOVICE CHASE 3m 110yds £8,286 (5 declared)

501	1-5U41	Wayward King (22) (D) R Hodges 6-12-0	T Dascombe	●90
502	50-121	Dr Leunt (21) P Hobbs 7-11-11	R Dunwoody	88
503	533-21	Hooded Hawk (28) (D) N Henderson 7-11-11	M A Fitzgerald	83
504	31/4-3	Act Of Faith (69) (C) (D) N Gaselee 8-11-7	C Llewellyn	85
505	50-	Blazing Batman (287) Mrs R Henderson 5-10-9	D Salter	—

Betting: 6-4 Dr Leunt, 2-1 Wayward King, 4-1 Hooded Hawk, 5-1 Act Of Faith, 50-1 Blazing Batman.

3.55 TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 110yds £10,163 (14 declared)

601	-40024	Blowing Wind (28) M Pipe 5-12-0	Mr A Farrant	84
602	4141-2	Cadougold (62) (D) M Pipe 7-12-0	A P McCoy	85
603	03-250	Mistinguett (35) (CD) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-12	C Llewellyn	86
604	/112-1	Red Blazer (28) (D) Miss H Knight 7-11-12	J Culloty	84
605	6414-2	Baron Boy (36) (C) (D) N Henderson 10-11-9	M A Fitzgerald	●90
606	14F-5	L'Opera (28) (D) D Nicholson 5-11-4	R Johnson	85
607	105/2-	Warm Spell (F180) (D) (BF) G L Moore 8-11-4	R Dunwoody	83
608	11-0	Bellator (42) (D) G Balding 5-11-0	B Fenton	89
609	-22511	New Inn (22) (D) S Gollings 7-10-11	Mr S Durack (5)	87
610	114/2-	Bless Me Sister (440) (D) (BF) R Rowe 9-10-4	A Garrity	—
611	193/	Robinhobinish (640) (D) J Bennett 7-10-4	L Harvey	—
612	141-22	Bigsalon (35) (D) (BF) P R Webber 7-10-0	—	89
613	6-F332	Harbet House (17) (D) R O'Sullivan 5-10-0	N Willmington ★	85
614	6132-1	Dipper Reed (28) (D) R Simpson 8-10-0	X Aizpuru (5)	86

Betting: 4-1 Red Blazer, 11-2 Baron Boy, 6-1 Cadougold, Bellator, 7-1 L'Opera, 8-1 Mistinguett, 9-1 New Inn.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
A P McCoy	24	87	27.6	+40.42
J Osborne	24	102	23.5	+7.27
R Dunwoody	22	114	19.3	-33.14
A Maguire	19	89	21.3	-9.03
M A Fitzgerald	18	114	15.8	-3.86
P Hide	9	68	13.2	-34.05
N Williamson	8	47	17	+3.50

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
D Nicholson	16	69	23.2	-1.77
M C Pipe	13	57	22.8	-3.06
N J Henderson	13	84	15.5	-16.24
N Twiston-Davies	13	88	14.8	+3.46
J T Gifford	12	98	12.2	-49.93
R H Alner	7	33	21.2	+16.83
Mrs J Pitman	6	33	18.2	+2.54

Results

KEMPTON

1.00 (2m Hdle): 1, ROAD RACER, J A McCarthy (7-4 fav); 2, Dual Or Bust (25-1); 3, Almond Rock (100-30). 14 ran. 21, 8. (P Webber) Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £11.60, £1.70. Dual F: £72.60. Trio: £30.70. CSF: £51.23.

1.35 (2m 5f Hdle): 1, ROYAL ARCTIC, Chris Webb (7-1); 2, Bene (7-1); 3, Welsh Silk (8-1). 5-1 fav Macy. 15 ran. 1¾, 7. (S Mellor) Tote: £8.70; £1.70, £1.80, £1.90. Dual F: £22.90. Trio: £81.50. CSF: £54.82. Tricast: £356.72. NR: Surgical Spirit.

2.05 (3m Ch): 1, MORSTOCK, T Dascombe (9-4 fav); 2, Robins Pride (10-1); 3, Sublime Fellow (7-2). 8 ran. 1¾, 1¾. (R Hodges) Tote: £3.90; £1.10, £2.30, £1.80. Dual F: £14.90. CSF: £22.41. Tricast: £70.19.

2.40 (2m Hdle): 1, ZAFARABAD, R Johnson (13-8 fav); 2, Borazon (5-2); 3, Darcy. 13 ran. 2½, 25. (D Nicholson) Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £1.90, £1.50. Dual F: £4.10. Trio: £5.00. CSF: £5.20.

3.10 (3m Ch): 1, SAIL BY THE STARS, S Wynne (7-2); 2, Oneword Lad (8-1); 3, Redeemyourself (11-2). 3-1 fav Eulogy. 8 ran. 1¾, 19. (Capt T Forster) Tote: £3.60; £1.30, £2.50, £2.20. Dual F: £11.90. Trio: £75.10. CSF: £30.21. Tricast: £141.76.

3.40 (2m Hdle): 1, ISITOFF, R Dunwoody (2-1 fav); 2, Hedge Another Man (5-1); 3, Rossmore Girl (100-30). 14 ran. 10, 7. (P Hobbs) Tote: £2.70; £1.80, £3.20, £1.20. Dual F: £8.10. Trio: £8.20. CSF: £12.84.

4.10 (3m Hdle): 1, TOMPETOO, C Llewellyn (3-1 fav); 2, Shepherds Rest (12-1); 3, Millmount (8-1). 15 ran. 5, 11. (N Twiston-Davies) Tote: £3.80; £1.70, £2.70, £2.80. Dual F: £19.80. Trio: £100.30. CSF: £40.76. Tricast: £368.52. NR: Imad, Peatswood.

JACKPOT: £3,173.80.
PLACEPOT: £11.00.
QUADPOT: £2.70.

MUSSELBURGH

12.50 (2m Hdle): 1, KING OF THIEVES, D Gallagher (8-1); 2, Count Tony (6-1); 3, Shining Example (10-1). 4-11 fav Justin Mac. 9 ran. ½, 15. (C Mann) Tote: £4.70; £1.10, £1.20, £4.30. Dual F: £15.60. Trio: £48.80. CSF: £41.30. NR: Hoh Express.

1.20 (2m Hdle): 1, GEORGE DILLINGHAM, L Wyer (11-10 fav); 2, Peel A Line (4-1); 3, Ingenuity (10-1). 9 ran. 18, 2½. (Denys Smith) Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.50, £2.30. Dual F: £2.80. Trio: £8.80. CSF: £4.81.

1.50 (2m Hdle): 1, BAHRR, Miss R Clark (9-2 jt-fav); 2, Fair And Fancy (8-1); 3, Cascade Treasured (50-1). 9-2 jt-fav Opera Fan. 15 ran. ¾, 3½. (S Clark) Tote: £6.50; £2.10, £3.80, £22.10. Dual F: £21.20. Trio: £234.00. CSF: £28.64. Tricast: £1,098.80.

2.20 (2m Ch): 1, CHINA KING, P Carberry (3-1); 2, Mene Pageant (16-1); 3, Noble Tom (5-2 fav). 10 ran. 4, 2. (J FitzGerald) Tote: £4.40; £1.10, £8.00, £1.50. Dual F: £22.50. Trio: £35.80. CSF: £80.41.

2.50 (3m Hdle): 1, ROBINGO, Mr S Durack (15-8 fav); 2, Topolsomethinking (3-1); 3, Shannara's Way (5-2). 8 ran. 6, 8. (J Neville) Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.20, £1.20. Dual F: £7.10. CSF: £7.46. Tricast: £12.13.

3.20 (2m Ch): 1, TOM BRODIE, E Callaghan (9-2); 2, Arctic Sandy (5-2 fav); 3, Dual Image (10-1). 8 ran. 2, nk. (J Howard Johnson) Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £1.10, £2.80. Dual F: £4.20. CSF: £15.55. Tricast: £98.75.

3.50 (2m 4f Hdle): 1, FORZAIR, P Carberry (4-1); 2, Little Duke (13-2); 3, Primitive Heart (7-1). 3-1 fav Hurst Flyer. 12 ran. ½, 10. (J O'Neill) Tote: £4.60; £3.10, £1.20, £1.80. Dual F: £15.80. Trio: £72.00. CSF: £28.36. Tricast: £164.05.

PLACEPOT: £88.40.
QUADPOT: £8.40.

SOUTHWELL

12.30 (6f): 1, KID ORY, P Fessey (14-1); 2, Mullagh Hill Lad (12-1); 3, River Ensign (5-1). 2-1 fav Seanchai. 11 ran. 1½, nk. (D Chapman) Tote: £17.00; £7.50, £2.40, £2.50. Dual F: £183.30. Trio: £180.70, part won £198.05 carried forward to Warwick 2.35. CSF: £172.79. Tricast: £1,059.70.

1.00 (6f): 1, ICE AGE, D Biggs (3-1 jt-fav); 2, Gadge (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Napoleon Star (7-2). 9 ran. 7, 2. (R Williams) Tote: £4.20; £1.20, £2.00, £1.60. Dual F: £7.10. Trio: £7.80. CSF: £11.64. Tricast: £30.54. NR: Separapodos, Unshaken.

1.30 (1m 3f): 1, MR FORTYWINKS, Miss Diana Jones (10-11 fav); 2, Head Gardener (12-1); 3, Modest Hope (14-1). 12 ran. 5, 1½. (J Eyre) Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.50, £3.50. Dual F: £8.20. Trio: £235.70, part won. £109.59 carried forward to Warwick 2.35. CSF: £14.93. Tricast: £108.02.

2.00 (2m): 1, MISTER ASPECTO, D Holland (7-4 fav); 2, Private Fixture (9-2); 3, Golden Hadeer (7-1). 9 ran. 4, hd. (M Johnston) Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £2.50, £1.80. Dual F: £19.10. Trio: £28.50. CSF: £10.58.

2.30 (1m 4f): 1, CHINA CASTLE, L Charnock (4-5 fav); 2, Raffles Rooster (15-8); 3, Dick Turpin (12-1). 6 ran. 2, 9. (P Haslam) Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £1.10. Dual F: £1.70. CSF: £2.48. NR: Filial.

3.00 (1m 3f): 1, DOUBLE ECHO, Mr J Crowley (14-1); 2, Ajdar (8-1); 3, Rainbow Quest (7-2 fav). 12 ran. 1½, 3½. (J Bethell) Tote: £22.30; £3.40, £2.10, £3.00. Dual F: £95.30. Trio: £93.20. CSF: £91.87. Tricast: £337.78.

3.30 (7f): 1, PINE RIDGE LAD, O Pears (evens fav); 2, Holloway Melody (10-1); 3, Awesome Venture (8-1). 11 ran. 6, 2½. (J Eyre) Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £2.30, £2.90. Dual F: £10.60. Trio: £19.80. CSF: £13.16. NR: Amy Leigh.

4.00 (1m): 1, GODMERSHAM PARK, G Parkin (9-4 fav); 2, Dancing Destiny (7-1); 3, Pleasure Trick (8-1). 15 ran. 1½, 2½. (P Felgate) Tote: £3.50; £2.00, £2.20, £9.30. Dual F: £15.10. Trio: £49.00. CSF: £18.85. Tricast: £118.01. NR: Bowcliffe.

PLACEPOT: £33.30. QUADPOT: £5.60.

Warwick seven-race TV meeting

	RON COX	TOP FORM
1.00	Key Grip	Key Grip
1.30	Boardroom Shuffle	Step On Eyre
2.05	Baldcar	Tom Tailor
2.35	Ceridwen	Killeshin
3.10	Splendid Thyne	Princeful
3.40	Clare Man (nb)	Clare Man
4.10	Rainbow Star	Rainbow Star

Left-handed circuit of 1¾m with 240yds run-in. Tight bends and short home straight favours the handy type of horse.
Going: Hurdles, Heavy; Chase, Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Give Best (3.10), J J O'Neill, Cumbria, 212 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.10 Lord Jim.
Blinkered first time: 2.05 Lettyfak. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.Flat.

1.00 HAMPTON HILL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m £3,399 (17 declared)

1	225	Lord Richfield (35) S Brookshaw 7-11-10	C Maude	85
2	/24411	Key Grip (16) (D) Mrs S Smith 7-11-7	G F Ryan (5)	●90
3	3/5U-3	Frys No Fool (53) (D) J Old 8-11-4	L Harvey	88
4	63/2-0	Infak (17) J L Harris 6-11-2	J R Kavanagh	—
5	0-54R	Cabelias (22) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-2	D Leahy	87
6	-31644	Claire's Dancer (21) (D) A Turnell 5-11-1	C Rae (7)	88
7	06166	Fabulon (21) M Pipe 5-10-12	D Fehrmann	87
8	0004-0	Hills Gamble (32) P Bevan 8-10-7	W Worthington	86
9	5P-643	Heart (64) Miss H Knight 5-10-5	J Power (7)	86
10	F0P-11	Studio Thirty (22) R Dickin 6-10-3	X Aizpuru (5)	84
11	PF64-	Starlingo (249) R Brown 5-10-0	R Bellamy	85
12	361	Zahealie (31) J Pickering 6-10-0	W Marston	87
13	-P2256	Moonlight Escapade (58) R Hodges 7-10-0	T Dascombe	83
14	22-052	Nitaad (37) K Morgan 6-10-0	R Thornton	82
15	000P-0	Murray's Million (17) J Smith 6-10-0	T J Murphy	84
16	0/0400	Karachi (35) J Joseph 8-10-0	J Goldstein (7)	83
17	PP03/0	Come On Risk Me (22) D McCain 7-10-0	T Jenks	—

Betting: 9-2 Key Grip, 5-1 Studio Thirty, 13-2 Heart, 10-1 Lord Richfield, Cabelias, Claire's Dancer, Zahealie, Nitaad.

1.30 ROSCOE HARVEY MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE 2m 4f 110yds £5,472 (12 declared)

1	111-F1	Boardroom Shuffle (43) (D) J Gifford 7-11-10	L Aspell (3)	—
2	3212-2	Absolutly Equiname (29) M Heaton-Ellis 7-11-0	B Powell	●90
3	0065-6	Calm Down (82) T Casey 7-11-0	W Marston	—
4	/PP0-5	Captain My Captain (31) R Brotherton 10-11-0	S Curran	84
5	1-	Cheval De Guerre (321) F Bailey 7-11-0	Mr R Wakley (5)	—
6	43456P	Crocknamohill (32) K Bridgwater 7-11-0	L Harvey	83
7	0/50-P	Frown (22) P Bowen 8-11-0	T J Murphy	—
8	060/	Joe's Birthday (885) P R Webber 8-11-0	Mr P Scott	—
9	122-3P	Step On Eyre (54) (D) (BF) T Forster 8-11-0	C Maude	●90
10	R11-P4	The Cockertoo (16) R Alner 7-11-0	P Holley	—
11	50	Topperillo (17) J McConnochie 9-11-0	S McNeill	—
12	211-3P	Motoqua (33) (CD) D Nicholson 6-10-9	R Thornton	—

Betting: 4-7 Boardroom Shuffle, 13-2 Step On Eyre, 7-1 Absolutly Equiname, 8-1 Cheval De Guerre, 10-1 Motoqua, 25-1 Calm Down, Captain My Captain.

2.05 MCMAHON LTD JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE 4YO 2m £4,713 (7 declared) CH4

1	101	Tom Tailor (16) (D) D Elsworth 11-5	P Holley	●90
2		Baldcar (F107) D Nicholson 11-0	R Thornton	—
3	0	Coble (28) D McCain 11-0	T Jenks	84
4	0	Golden Saddle (36) D Wintle 11-0	W Marston	—
5	2336	Lettyfak (36) I Williams 11-0	C Maude ★	87
6	52	After Hours (29) D Ffrench Davis 10-9	J Magee (3)	87
7	0	Marytavy (28) P R Webber 10-9	B Powell	—

Betting: evens Baldcar, 7-4 Tom Tailor, 8-1 After Hours, 10-1 Lettyfak, 14-1 Coble, 25-1 Marytavy, 50-1 Golden Saddle.

FORM GUIDE - Tom Tailor: Made all, held on gamely from 2 out, clear last, beating Rainbow Star 7l at Exeter 2m2f nov hdl, Hvy. Baldcar: Beat Perfect Venue 13l at Cork 1m4f stks (Flat), Gd. Coble: With leader after 5th, weakened 3 out, 9th of 14, 35l behind Kilbride Lad, with Marytavy (rec 5lb) 10th, btn 43l, at Haydock 2m nov hdl, Gd-Sft. Golden Saddle: Always behind, tailed off from 3 out, 12th of 13, well behind Sound Appeal at Cheltenham 2m1f nov hdl, Gd. Lettyfak: Chased leaders until ridden and weakened approaching 2 out, 6th of 13, 30l behind Sound Appeal at Cheltenham 2m1f nov hdl, Gd. After Hours: Chased leaders, challenged and mistake 2 out, soon beaten, 2nd of 11, 3l behind Silent Valley at Uttoxeter 2m nov sell hdl, Gd-Sft.

2.35 TOTE WARWICK NATIONAL CHASE HANDICAP 3m 5f £10,835 (16 declared) CH4

1	3RU-5F	Sister Stephanie (7) (C) G McCourt 9-11-13	Mr D Barney (7)	—
2	1103-6	Parsons Boy (28) (D) G Richards 9-11-12	R Harding	85
3	20-51P	Evangelica (21) (C) M Pipe 8-11-12	D Fehrmann	84
4	013-86	Jet Rules (22) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-12	D Leahy ★	83
5	00-U54	Killeshin (21) H Manners 12-11-7	S Curran	●90
6	13132R	Danger Baby (16) P Bowen 8-11-7	W Marston ★	88
7	3F-F2P	Full Of Oats (7) (CD) Miss H Knight 12-11-6	G Hogan (3)	87
8	3P2 23	Hatcham Boy (58) (BF) D Nicholson 8-11-3	R Thornton	89
9	4/21-1	Martell Boy (224) Miss V Williams 11-11-2	T J Murphy	86
10	(R-45P	Grange Brake (28) N Twiston-Davies 12-11-2	C Maude ★	—
11	03/F-1	Over The Deel (40) (C) P Mooney 12-10-12	L Aspell (3)	88
12	320-30	A N C Express (7) (C) J King 10-10-11	T Jenks	88
13	0-U2F2	Church Law (18) Mrs L Taylor 11-10-8	J R Kavanagh	88
14	P21-43	Miss Diskin (35) (C) R Buckler 9-10-6	B Powell	87
15	12-11R	Top Javalin (31) N Hawke 11-10-4	R Greene	85
16	/511-1	Ceridwen (22) T Greathead 8-10-0	W Worthington	88

Betting: 11-2 Ceridwen, 7-1 Miss Diskin, Martell Boy, 8-1 Hatcham Boy, 10-1 Over The Deel, 12-1 A N C Express, Full Of Oats, Jet Rules, 14-1 Evangelica, 16-1 Parsons Boy, Church Law.

FORM GUIDE - Sister Stephanie: Blundered and fell at the 1st in race won by Him Of Praise, with A N C Express (rec 11lb) 7th of 14, well behind, Full Of Oats (rec 7lb) pulled up 2 out, at Sandown 3m5f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Parsons Boy: Held up in rear, lost touch approaching 4 out, tailed off, last of 6, 45l behind High Altitude at Haydock 3m4f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Jet Rules: Chased leader until 3 out, soon weakened, 6th of 10, 37l behind Buckhouse Boy at Wincanton 2m6f hcap hdl, Gd-Sft. Killeshin: Behind, ridden after 12th, stayed on from 3 out, never nearer, 4th of 14, 15l behind Earth Summit, with Evangelica (rec 3lb) pulled up at 15th, at Chepstow 3m5f hcap ch, Hvy. Danger Baby: Made most to 21st, weakened 3 out, no chance when refused at the last in race won by Kendal Cavalier at Cheltenham 4m1f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Hatcham Boy: Chased winner 9th to 14th, mistake next, ridden and one pace from 3 out, 3rd of 4, 8l behind God Speed You at Warwick 3m2f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Martell Boy: Prominent, led 4 out, soon clear, eased, beating Gems Lad 8l at Worcester 2m7f hcap ch, Gd. Grange Brake: Chased winner, mistakes, soon lost place, tailed off when pulled up 3 out in race won by Him Of Praise at Haydock 4m hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Over The Deel: Led 3rd until 14th, led 15th, edged right flat, just held on, beating Fiveparch a shd at Warwick 3m2f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Church Law: Led 7th to 8th, led 10th until after 3 out, one pace from next, 2nd of 5, 8l behind Coole Hill at Stratford 3m hcap ch, Sft.

3.10 IAN WILLIAMS GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £7,449 (26 declared) CH4

1	024/4-	Sohrab (310) M Pipe 10-11-10	J Rust (7)	87
2	FF-P4P	Pleasure Shared (28) P Hobbs 10-11-9	G Tormey	—
3	235/0-	Gillan Cove (329) R Alner 9-11-0	P Holley	—
4	2P-241	Princeful (16) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12	B Hogan (3)	●90
5	111	Lord Jim (7) J Old 6-10-5	D J Moffatt	89
6	13-611	Splendid Thyne (35) (C) T Casey 6-10-4	W Marston	86
7	1112F3	Couchant (42) (D) M Pipe 7-10-3	G Supple (5)	85
8	11-116	Spendid (28) (D) (BF) D Nicholson 6-10-1	R Thornton	84
9	F2-61R	Angelo's Double (7) (D) R Buckler 10-10-0	B Powell	—
10	44-041	Halle Derring (22) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0	C Maude	83
11	10-310	Eia Agapi Mou (42) G L Moore 5-10-0	M Batchelor (7)	83
12	00/611	Native Field (30) (D) D Wintle 9-10-0	R Bellamy	82
13	/311-3	Beggars Banquet (28) (D) P Beaumont 8-10-0	B Grattan (5)	84
14	/33-11	Unsinkable Boxer (17) M Pipe 9-10-0	T J Murphy	83
15	402-23	Noble Lord (105) R Phillips 5-10-0	S McNeill	82
16	-6?150	Chalmel (7) (D) John Berry 5-10-0	L Aspell (3)	84
17	2114-P	Ardrina (21) (D) (BF) F Murphy 7-10-0	Michael Brennan (3)	85
18	12-061	Clairesswan (30) M Tompkins 6-10-0	M Richards	89
19	/5451-	Warner For Players (339) P Hobbs 7-10-0	J R Kavanagh	86
20	45111/	Marlon Society (610) A Hobbs 10-10-0	B Shenkin (7)	—
21	20/21-	Ben Cruachan (406) J Jefferson 8-10-0	B Harding	78
22	-P1211	Arctic Triumph (81) M Bradstock 7-10-0	Katharine Bambridge (7)	85
23	015FF-	Folly Road (298) (D) (BF) K McAuliffe 8-10-0	Mr R Wakley (5)	85
24	012-26	Pleasureland (69) (D) R Curtis 5-10-0	J Leech	83
25	0/13-3	Winn's Pride (29) (D) R Hollinshead 7-10-0	S Wynne	86
26	4/030-	Give Best (312) J J O'Neill 7-10-0	L Cooper (7)	83

Betting: 4-1 Princeful, 11-2 Lord Jim, 6-1 Splendid Thyne, 8-1 Halle Derring, 12-1 Couchant, Spendid, Beggars Banquet, 14-1 Unsinkable Boxer, Sohrab.

FORM GUIDE - Sohrab: Good headway 2 out, one pace flat, 4th of 17, 8l behind Kerawi at Cheltenham 3m hdl, Gd. Princeful: Always going well, led after 2 out, clear approaching last, easily, beating Moorish 8l at Cheltenham 2m5f hcap hdl, Gd-Sft. Lord Jim: Chased leaders, hard ridden last, led near finish, beating Easy Feelin a nk at Sandown 2m6f hdl, Sft. Splendid Thyne: Headway to lead approaching 2 out, clear when mistake last, eased, beating Campaign 5l at Haydock 2m7f hcap hdl, Gd-Sft. Couchant: Headway 2 out, ridden approaching last, ran on one pace, 3rd of 12, 5l behind Friendship at Sandown 2m6f hcap hdl, Gd-Sft. Halle Derring: Chased leader from 8th, led 3 out to 2 out, left in lead last, ran on, beating Toby Brown 5l at Kempton 3m hcap hdl, Sft. Native Field: Lost place 7th, rallied approaching 2 out, led flat, drawn clear, beating Ever Smile 3l at Towcester 2m5f claim hdl, Sft. Beggars Banquet: Chased leader, mistake 2nd, one pace from 2 out, 3rd of 6, 5l behind Red Blazer, with Spendid (gave 14lb) last, btn 38l, at Uttoxeter 2m4f hcap hdl, Gd-Sft. Unsinkable Boxer: Steady headway 7th, led on bit last, hard held, beating Mr Chataway 4l at Fontwell 2m6f nov hdl, Sft. Noble Lord: Led to 5th, ridden 4 out, 3rd and btn when mistake 3 out, last of 3, 7l behind Noble Colours at Chepstow 2m 4f hcap hdl, Gd-Fm. Chalmel: Tailed off from 3rd, 7th of 8, well behind French Holly at Sandown 2m hdl, Sft. Ardrina: Chased leaders, pushed along from halfway, weakened 4 out pulled up 3 out in race won by Campaign at Wetherby 2m 7f hcap hdl, Sft.

3.40 EDWARD COURAGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE 2m 4f 110yds £7,458 (9 declared) CH4

1	211-4P	Terao (83) (D) M Pipe 12-11-11	C Maude	—
2	3-P002	Kadi (21) (D) D Nicholson 9-11-8	—	88
3	31FF/6	Jibber The Kibber (21) (CD) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-4	D Leahy	84
4	50-121	Dr Leunt (21) P Hobbs 7-10-12	—	88
5	23116-	Lance Armstrong (277) (D) G McCourt 8-10-10	W Marston	83
6	23-1U0	With Impunity (21) (D) P Nicholls 9-10-7	T J Murphy	84
7	P3/341	Clare Man (16) (D) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-1	T Jenks	●90
8	442-45	Allo George (283) A Newcombe 12-10-0	P Holley	85
9	1-1112	Manor Mieo (21) (D) (BF) G Prodromou 12-10-0	Michael Brennan (3) ★	84

Betting: 5-2 Clare Man, 7-2 Jibber The Kibber, With Impunity, 5-1 Manor Mieo, 7-1 Lance Armstrong, 9-1 Terao, 16-1 Allo George.
● Kadi, 1st preference Ascot 1.45; ● Dr Leunt, 1st preference Ascot 3.25

FORM GUIDE - Terao: Chased leaders until 9th, soon lost touch, tailed off when pulled up 2 out in race won by Senor El Betrutti at Cheltenham 2m4f hcap ch, Gd. Kadi: Headway 11th, left 2nd 3 out, hard ridden approaching last, ran on, 2nd of 5, 3l behind Edredon Bleu at Kempton 2m4f hcap ch, Sft. Dr Leunt: Left in lead 2nd, headed 7th, led 9th, clear 2 out, easily, beating Loaded Gunny 13l at Chepstow 2m3f nov ch, Hvy. Lance Armstrong: Chased leaders to 2 out, weakened quickly, 6th of 9, 28l behind Sir Dante at Cheltenham 2m4f nov hcap hdl, Gd-Fm. With Impunity: Chased leader, led approaching 5 out, blundered and unseated rider 4 out in race won by Sparkling Cone at Chepstow 2m3f hcap ch, Hvy. Clare Man: Chased leaders, challenged and left in lead 3 out, ridden out, beating Cathy Hang 3l at Leicester 2m4f hcap ch, Gd-Sft. Allo George: Prominent to 13th, soon lost place, tailed off, 5th of 8, distance behind Gems Lad at Worcester 2m7f hcap ch, Gd. Manor Mieo: Prominent, left in lead 2 out, headed flat, no extra near finish, 2nd of 8, 3l behind Strong Light, with Jibber The Kibber (gave 23lb) 6th, btn 18l, at Leicester 2m4f hcap ch, Gd-Sft.

4.10 LEASOWES MAIDEN HURDLE 2m 4f 110yds £3,388 (24 declared)

1	8	Annamachan (22) T Casey 6-11-7	W Marston	—
2		Bermea Banla J Upson 6-11-7	P Henley (3)	—
3	323-66	Bold Leap (6) P R Webber 6-11-7	S Wynne	85
4	2-02	Good Lord Murphy (47) P Hobbs 6-11-7	G Tormey	85
5	PPP15/	Kenmare Lad (643) (D) Mrs V Ward 8-11-7	Michael Brennan (3)	—
6	U	Literary Spark (45) F Jackson 10-11-7	Mr N Kent	—
7	00	Market Spotlight (36) J L Harris 7-11-7	J R Kavanagh	—
8	41-5P	Mazileo (22) I Williams 5-11-7	E Husband (3)	—
9	60-P	Monsieur Pink (185) A Streeter 6-11-7	T Eley	—
10	00-0	Normandy Duke (22) C Mann 6-11-7	J Magee (3)	—
11		Not Really Lady E Mays-Smith 7-11-7	Mr R Wakley (5)	—
12	450-53	Shanakamai (21) J King 6-11-7	D J Kavanagh (5)	86
13	F22-00	Skimabit (18) C Brooks 7-11-7	S McNeill	84
14	0/00-0	Somrisa (81) P Bowen 6-11-7	L Cummins (5)	—
15	/2-342	Sursum Corda (18) T Forster 7-11-7	R Thornton	89
16	0-	Sweet Perry (336) I Williams 7-11-7	B Powell	—
17	66-45	Wisley Warrior (22) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7	C Maude	85
18		Golden Millenium R Lee 8-11-0	G Hogan (3)	—
19	21-443	Kinnahalla (22) G Balding 8-11-2	S Fox	86
20	0-	Pride Of Pennker (248) A Newcombe 5-11-2	P Holley	—
21	0P-	Thunderbird (253) A H Harvey 8-11-2	M Richards	—
22	6	Vallis Vale (25) J King 8-11-2	T Jenks	85
23		Also Hum (F34) M Pipe 4-10-8	Mr G Elliott (5)	—
24	35622	Rainbow Star (16) M Pipe 4-10-8	G Supple (5)	●88

Betting: 11-2 Sursum Corda, 13-2 Shanakamai, 8-1 Good Lord Murphy, 10-1 Wisley Warrior, Kinnahalla, 12-1 Rainbow Star, 14-1 Mazileo, Not Really, Skimabit, Pride Of Pennker, Vallis Vale.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
R Dunwoody	25	59	42.4	+27.38
A P McCoy	17	42	40.5	+18.84
N Williamson	17	79	21.5	+17.82
A Maguire	17	82	20.7	+31.72
J Osborne	14	66	21.2	-11.40
W Marston	11	87	12.6	-39.68
R Johnson	10	61	16.4	-11.57

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level Stk
M C Pipe	27	106	25.5	-30.17
D Nicholson	21	100	21.5	-9.39
Mrs J Pitman	16	71	22.5	+24.25
N Twiston-Davies	11	78	14.1	-14.73
Miss H C Knight	7	54	13.2	-7.50
C P E Brooks	6	35	17.1	+3.80
K C Bailey	6	47	12.8	-28.51

Basketball

Sainsbury's Classic Cola Cup final

Long Riders draw close to the end of a 30-year search

Leicester are in with a shout of winning their first major trophy, **Robert Pryce** reports

THE Leicester City Riders held a 30th-anniversary celebration in September. A number of former players were paraded in front of the home crowd, who responded affectionately. But there was nothing else to show: no championship banners, no trophies. At Leicester, it seems the future is always more glorious than the past.

The club have played a significant part in the development of English basketball but they have never won a major trophy. Founder members of the National League in 1972 and of the Basketball League in 1987, they reached the finals of the National Cup in 1984 and 1991 and of the Trophy in 1992, but lost each time.

"We're persistent at least," says their chairman Kevin Routledge. Thirty years of hurt never stopped them dreaming.

And they can put an end to it today. This afternoon at the Sheffield Arena they take on the Thames Valley Tigers in the Sainsbury's National Cup final with rather more hope of success than they are used to accommodating.

Leicester's league record this season is as undistinguished as ever, but this time it looks more like camouflage than true colours. They have no injury concerns, their recent results have been better than Thames Valley's, and they have already knocked three bigger, richer clubs out of the cup. "We've finally got the pieces together," says their coach Bob Donewald.

Last season, his first in the league, Leicester proved themselves capable of outrunning and outgunning opponents on the rare occasions that they were not utterly debilitated by injury. This season they are bigger and healthier, in the image of James "Godzilla" Havrilla, a 6ft 11in centre who puts back shots from such altitude and with such emphasis that they show up on the Richter *and* Beaufort scales.

Indeed it seemed at first as though Donewald had overdone the changes, that in his concern with giving his team an "inside presence" he had neglected the perimeter, but since then the Riders have signed JaRon Boone and Garnet Gayle and benefited from more dynamic performances from Gene Waldron, a 36-year-old lefty guard who first joined them in 1984, half a club lifetime ago.

> 'He was very wild. He'd smashed up two cars by the end of September'

"He had New York talent oozing out of him," Routledge recalls. "He was very talented but very wild. He would have been sacked in January if I hadn't intervened. He'd smashed up two cars by the end of September."

After 14 years, more than 250 games and 5,000 points, he is a little more settled. "People ask me why I stayed in Leicester," he said yesterday. "Tomorrow's going to show the reason why."

Waldron will start today's game alongside Boone at small forward, Geno Ford at point guard and the heavyweight Billy Singleton alongside Havrilla on the inside. "We've got a more balanced attack now," says Donewald.

But the Riders remain unpredictable. On Tuesday in a Trophy quarter-final first leg at Sheffield they fell 21 points behind, endured a foul-mouthed tirade from Donewald at half-time and came back so strongly that they face only a three-point deficit in the home leg on Wednesday.

"We did a decent job of getting out of jail," says Donewald, who talks a rather more dispassionate game than he delivers. The 27-year-old son of a major college coach, he has been steeped in the game to such effect that his idea of a good night is to phone for pizza and settle down with a stack of game tapes.

Whatever he said at half-time on Tuesday may have brought the players together. It certainly stung them. Usually teams end their huddles with one-word exhortations, reminders of matters requiring particular attention, such as "defence" and "rebounds". On this occasion Leicester's rallying cry for the second half was "f*** the coach".

Relationships have been calmer this week. Leicester are not used to the big occasion and Donewald has been concerned that they should not be too wound up for the final. "It will be won by the more relaxed of the two teams, which is why we're taking the light-hearted approach," he says. "We'll go in smiling."

This seems unlikely, if only because nerves and hopes are raw after 30 fruitless seasons. Let Waldron explain. "It's a big thing for me," he says. "Tomorrow is really, really . . . I mean the first-year guys on the team have no idea how big this game is, for me and the club."

His goal's beyond . . . Leicester's Gene Waldron prepares to shoot the free throw

Swimming

Klim cruises in as China relay teams pull out

MICHAEL KLIM, the Polish-born Australian who threatens to dominate the pool at the 2000 Olympics, had the home crowd roaring when he won his third gold medal of the world championships in Perth yesterday, but the American Jenny Thompson stole his thunder by securing her fourth.

The 20-year-old Klim, who has also collected two silvers, added the 100 metres butterfly title to 200m freestyle and 4 x 200m relay. "I was feeling quite lethargic this morning after the last five days," said the shaven-headed Klim. "But the fly always seems to bring something special out of me."

Thompson's latest gold came after she swam the butterfly leg in the American quartet's 4 x 100m medley relay victory. It came in a time just outside China's world record — with the under-performing title-holders failing even to show for the heats of an event in which they twice broke the world record four years ago in Rome.

It was another decidedly mixed day for the Chinese, still reeling from having four more team members suspended on Wednesday for testing positive for a banned diuretic.

In the 200m women's medley Wu Yanyan claimed the country's third gold, breaking the former East German Petra Schneider's drugs-tainted championship record set in 1972 by almost a second. Chen Yan, winner of China's two other golds, took the silver.

The Chinese also failed to turn up for the men's 4 x 200m men's medley relay yesterday. One official, Peter Warden, said: "I'd say the main reason they're not competing is they've lost two of their best swimmers. You can't lose five swimmers from a team in the space of a week and expect to replace them."

After her victory the 20-year-old Wu explained why her compatriots have been doing so badly in Perth when only weeks ago they were smashing world records in their national championships.

"Australia is an alien place," said Wu, through an interpreter. "In Shanghai we were more relaxed. Here we are more nervous because the weather, food, temperature, everything is different."

Not one British swimmer reached an individual final yesterday though James Hickman did win the consolation race in the 100m butterfly. And the Chinese disappearing act in the women's medley relay let in the British quartet of Sue Rolph, Sarah Price, Jaime King and Caroline Foot — who came last but moved up to seventh when Belgium were disqualified.

Cricket

Knight warms to Sri Lankan test

ENGLAND A's captain Nick Knight described Sri Lanka as the harshest cricketing venue in the world on the eve of his side's opening match there, against the President's XI in Colombo.

Without a game for more than a week after rain wiped out most of the tour's Kenyan leg, the 14-man squad has had to restrict net time because of the oppressive heat. "We have only been batting for 20 minutes each," said Knight, "but you feel as if you have been batting all day in England."

England delayed naming their side until this morning, although the manager Graham Gooch confirmed that Warwickshire's all-rounder Dougie Brown would play. "Dougie needs a run-out," Gooch said. "He has done well in the nets but that is not the same as playing out in the middle."

England plan to use all 14 players today and in next week's three-day game before employing the line-up for the first Test at Kurenegala on January 30 in the preceding four-day match.

Also in Colombo, the Zimbabwean brothers Grant and Andy Flower struck second-innings half-centuries yesterday to enhance Zimbabwe's prospects of winning the second and final Test and halving the series against Sri Lanka. The tourists ended the third day on 241 for six to lead by 267 runs.

Makhaya Ntini, the first black African to play for South Africa, took two for 31 from 10 overs as his side strolled to a 67-run one-day win over New Zealand in Perth. Despite the absence of Allan Donald, the Kiwis were restricted to 166 all out in reply to South Africa's 233 for seven, an innings dominated by Jacques Kallis's 111. This was South Africa's sixth win in seven games in the one-day tournament. They meet Australia in the final.

The left-arm spinner Mohammad Hussain took four for 33 as Pakistan squared the three-match Independence Cup final against India in Dhaka.

ENGLAND A (probable): Knight (capt), James, Maddy, Flintoff, Brown, Giles, Cosker, Read (wkt), Hutchison, Ormond & Hollioake.

Motor Sport

McRae anxious to cover the full Monte

McRae . . . crashed out twice

David Williams on this weekend's classic event and why the flying Scot so dislikes it

COLIN McRAE knows better than most that every motor rally is something of a gamble. And as he tackles the oldest and most famous of them all, the Monte Carlo, he is hoping to leave the dicing, and especially the high-rolling, to others.

"It's one rally that would be nice to win because of what it is, but I don't enjoy it at all," admitted the former world champion.

No one is faster than McRae on predictable terrain, but although the Monte is largely run on asphalt there is always the possibility of snow, leading to a combination of different surfaces and tyres that demands discipline and luck.

Such conditions do not suit the Scot's expansive style, as his dreadful record in the event proves. His three previous attempts have ended in two accidents and a 10th place, and a vehement note creeps into his voice when the event — starting on Monday — is mentioned.

"It's so competitive now. The cars are so advanced, but in inconsistent conditions they're not easy to control. And when you're on Tarmac tyres and have to go down icy mountainsides you must go as fast as you can.

"Everybody says, 'Oh, just take it easy on the slippy stuff,' but you've got to push as hard as you think possible. I think a lot of the stages are very dangerous, not because of the slippery conditions but because there are a lot of big drops and a lot of things you can hit."

Winning will be harder than ever this year. Toyota are returning in strength with two former world champions, Carlos Sainz and Didier Auriol, but there is so little to choose between McRae's Subaru and the Fords, Mitsubishis and Peugeots that timing to the nearest 10th of a second is being introduced.

There are 13 rounds of the world championship to go and McRae, who lost last season's world title by a single point, needs no reminding that consistency matters as much as speed.

Aside from his fellow Briton Richard Burns he is the youngest of the elite and, even though he lost the world title to Mitsubishi's Finnish driver Tommi Makinen, the three rousing victories that completed his 1997 season suggested that he was establishing a superiority comparable to Michael Schumacher's.

"If you're confident — or more confident than anyone else — it will carry you along a lot quicker for a while," he said. "It's just finding the balance where to stop."

On recent form, he is no longer finding that balance so difficult. Victory in the Monte would confirm that.

Newcastle runners and riders

	RON COX	TOP FORM
12.50	Bamburgh Boy	Warrlin
1.20	Gems Lad	Linden's Lotto
1.50	Dockmaster	Needwood Poppy
2.25	Classic Eagle	Classic Eagle
3.00	Celestial Choir	Green Green Desert
3.30	Mr Busby	—
4.00	Cittadino (nap)	River Unshion

Left-handed circuit of 1¾m with 220yds run-in. Steady rise in home straight of 4f makes this galloping track a true test of stamina.
Going: Good to Soft, Soft patches. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Swing West (12.50), P Eccles, Berks, 285 miles; Green Green Desert (3.00) & The In-Laws (12.50), O Sherwood, Berks, 284 miles; Bold Galt (2.25), J Fanshawe, Suffolk, 245 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: None. **Visored:** 3.00 Jymjam Johnny.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F-Flat.

12.50 MBNA JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE 4YO
2m £2,369 (11 declared)

1 51 Bamburgh Boy (21) (B) T Easterby 11-5 — R Garritty 88
2 1 Robbie (15) (D) Mrs M Reveley 11-5 — P Niven 85
3 21 Swing West (28) (D) P Eccles 11-5 — D Gallagher 88
4 463 Hob Explorer (37) D Barker 10-12 — D Bentley 87
5 3 Mr Bombastique (19) Mrs J Brown 10-12 — E Callaghan 84
6 Pupil Master (F282) B Mactaggart 10-12 — G Lee —
7 6 Sallustry (F14) P Haslam 10-12 — M Foster —
8 Treasure Hill (F196) B Mactaggart 10-12 — B Storey —
9 202 Warrlin (28) C Fairhurst 10-12 — J Callaghan ●90
10 632 Bollero (14) J Berry 10-7 — B Parker 86
11 The In-Laws (F81) O Sherwood 10-7 — J A McCarthy —
Betting: 11-4 Swing West, 3-1 Bamburgh Boy, 11-2 Robbie, 13-2 The In-Laws, 7-1 Mr Bombastique, Bollero, 8-1 Warrlin.

1.20 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE
3m 6f £3,550 (13 declared)

1 P4/3-3 Silver Stick (49) (CD) M W Easterby 11-12-0 — P Niven ★ 85
2 15-211 Linden's Lotto (14) G Richards 9-11-13 — A Dobbin ●90
3 F13-41 Judicious Captain (22) Mrs J Storey 11-11-2 — Mr C Storey 83
4 PPP-53 Northern Squire (18) (C) J Jefferson 10-10-11 — E Callaghan —
5 4P0-46 Frost Line (28) J J O'Neill 11-10-9 — P Carberry 82
6 60-P35 Pink Gin (49) (C) M Hammond 11-10-9 — R Garritty —
7 2-212P Gems Lad (22) (BF) Mrs S Smith 11-10-6 — R Guest 86
8 /UF5-3 Peter (22) D Wathers 10-10-4 — B Storey 84
9 6-2430 Plans Gunner (54) M Hammond 10-10-0 — D Gallagher —
10 046-65 Heavenly Citizen (18) J Gledson 10-10-0 — C McCormack (5) 86
11 312RO3 D'Arblay Street (14) W Kemp 9-10-0 — F Leahy (3) ★ 87
12 F2-UP4 Another Venture (22) F Murphy 8-10-0 — R McGrath (3) ★ —
13 540-P1 Majority Major (37) (C) P Cheesbrough 9-10-0 — A S Smith 84
Betting: 5-2 Linden's Lotto, 9-2 Judicious Captain, 13-2 Gems Lad, 7-1 Peter, D'arblay Street, 8-1 Silver Stick, Majority Major.

1.50 WADDINGTON JAYCARE HANDICAP HURDLE
3m £2,857 (15 declared)

1 5530-5 Dally Boy (21) (C) T Easterby 6-11-12 — S Ryan (5) 88
2 2114-P Ardrina (21) (BF) F Murphy 7-11-10 — M Foster 87
3 -10333 Lintotham (15) (D) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-6 — G Lee 89
4 311-25 Lough Tully (42) (D) (BF) F Jordan 8-11-5 — D Gallagher 88
5 35-031 Double Agent (33) (C) J Howard Johnson 5-11-3 — P Carberry 88
6 3/4562 Hit The Canvas (21) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-2 — P Niven 83
7 212-40 Mr Christie (19) (D) (BF) Miss L Siddall 6-10-13 — T Reed 84
8 01/1-4 Sedrieto (15) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13 — Mr T Comerford (7) 85
9 14-3 Sweet Wisely (18) M Hammond 6-10-10 — R Garritty 80
10 1-3304 Dockmaster (21) (CD) Miss K Milligan 7-10-10 — A Dobbin 84
11 44-326 Needwood Poppy (21) (BF) B Morgan 10-10-1 — B Clifford ●90
12 111FP Mandlex (1622) (D) S Pittendrigh 10-10-0 — L O'Hara —
13 13P240 Sigma Wireless (21) (D) T Etherington 9-10-0 — D Parker 88
14 P/UP-5 Twin States (17) (CD) J Turner 9-10-0 — R Supple —
15 53340- Marlingford (394) Mrs J Jordan 11-10-0 — S Taylor (5) —
Betting: 11-4 Double Agent, 9-2 Ardrina, 11-2 Lough Tully, 7-1 Hit The Canvas, Sweet Wisely, 8-1 Lintotham, Dockmaster.

2.25 HENNESSY COGNAC SERIES NOVICE HURDLE — SKY
2m £6,356 (11 declared)

1 1 Alpine Panther (33) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5 — P Niven 85
2 4 Bold Galt (28) (BF) J Fanshawe 7-11-5 — R Guest 78
3 01 Classic Eagle (17) (D) Mrs D Haine 5-11-5 — A Dobbin ●90
4 Distinct (F867) A Whillans 5-11-5 — A S Smith —
5 4053/ Falcon's Image (725) J Jefferson 7-11-5 — E Callaghan —
6 121 Flying North (54) (D) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5 — G Lee 88
7 06000 Indian Viceroy (10) J Turner 5-11-5 — R Supple —
8 Jacques The Lad Mrs J Storey 6-11-5 — Mr C Storey —
9 21 Ledgendry Line (47) (D) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-5 — N Smith 87
10 U-02 Northern Motto (19) (BF) J Goldie 5-11-5 — R McGrath 83
11 00-5 Queens Brigade (18) F Walton 6-11-5 — B Storey 78
Betting: 3-1 Ledgendry Line, 7-2 Flying North, 4-1 Classic Eagle, 9-2 Alpine Panther, 5-1 Bold Galt, 12-1 Northern Motto, 25-1 Falcon's Image, Jacques The Lad.

3.00 DIPPER NOVICE CHASE — SKY
2m 4f £11,326 (9 declared)

1 511131 Green Green Desert (36) O Sherwood 7-11-9 — J A McCarthy ●90
2 0-3211 Jymjam Johnny (15) (D) J J O'Neill 9-11-5 — P Niven ★ 86
3 4621P4 Master Bavard (14) P Monteith 10-11-5 — A Dobbin 84
4 2-1110 Pentlands Flyer (22) (D) J Howard Johnson 7-11-5 — P Carberry 89
5 -12312 Rachael's Owen (16) (D) J Goldie 8-11-5 — R McGrath 85
6 3P-13F Solsgirth (15) (D) J Barclay 7-11-5 — R Supple 84
7 0/0-P Slinging Bee (38) W Reed 7-11-5 — T Reed —
8 /2-352 True Scot (22) P Cheesbrough 8-11-5 — A S Smith 82
9 1410-1 Celestial Choir (18) (CD) J Eyre 8-11-0 — B Storey 83
Betting: 9-4 Green Green Desert, 3-1 Pentlands Flyer, 7-2 Celestial Choir, 4-1 Jymjam Johnny, 10-1 Rachael's Owen, 20-1 True Scot, 25-1 Master Bavard, Solsgirth, 66-1 Slinging Bee.

3.30 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
2m £1,434 (25 declared)

1 3 Branch End (30) J Charlton 6-11-4 — D Thomas (7)
2 22 Joe Buzz (19) F Murphy 6-11-4 — E Callaghan
3 Lucky Move S Kettlewell 5-11-4 — D Gallagher
4 Mr Busby Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 — M Herrington (7)
5 Perks of The Job F Murtagh 6-11-4 — A Dobbin
6 Shay Gap Mrs J Storey 5-11-4 — B Parker
7 0 Snail Box (19) B Mactaggart 5-11-4 — B Storey
8 Still Friends C Grant 5-11-4 — R Garritty
9 2 Sunthyme Special (28) L Lungo 6-11-4 — R Supple
10 02 Tell Monty (28) Mrs J Brown 6-11-4 — G Lee
11 63-3 Wellswood (19) J Jefferson 5-11-4 — M Mello (7)
12 43 Woodfield Gale (10) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 — P Niven
13 Call The Tune R McDonald 6-10-13 — J Supple
14 Dark Sally N Chamberlain 5-10-13 — A S Smith
15 Bipeder D Swindlehurst 6-10-13 — Mr D Swindlehurst
16 Heira Ward M Barnes 5-10-13 — S Taylor (5)
17 5 Just Hush (14) R Nixon 5-10-13 — C McCormack (5)
18 Lady For Pleasure W Cunningham 6-10-13 — R Smith
19 Lucky Gamester Mrs S Smith 5-10-13 — S Portill (7)
20 Petite Bush B Ellison 5-10-13 — R McGrath (3)
21 Jack Flash S Kettlewell 4-10-6 — Mr C Bonner (7)
22 Rosieannalsie M W Easterby 4-10-6 — Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
23 Tom's Man G White 4-10-6 — S Melrose (7)
24 Wrangel J FitzGerald 4-10-6 — P Carberry
25 Martha's Moonstone T Easterby 4-10-1 — J Callaghan
Betting: 7-2 Joe Buzz, 4-1 Sunthyme Special, 7-1 Tell Monty, Wellswood, Woodfield Gale, 8-1 Mr Busby, Wrangel.

4.00 JAMES ROBSON CLARK HANDICAP CHASE — SKY
2m 4f £2,905 (9 declared)

1 31-F12 Blue Charm (19) (C) (BF) Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-13 — Mr M Bradburne (5) 89
2 2132-F Brighter Shade (15) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-11 — P Niven 84
3 -F1234 Ballyline (18) W Kemp 7-11-1 — A Dobbin 83
4 13-2F2 River Unshion (30) (D) (BF) J Howard Johnson 8-11-0 — P Carberry ●90
5 12-333 Briar's Delight (35) (C) R Allan 10-10-11 — R Garritty ★ 84
6 14P0-3 Cittadino (22) (D) C Thornton 8-10-0 — M Foster 87
7 454225 Blazing Dawn (70) (C) (D) J Hubbuck 11-10-0 — B Storey 84
8 P365-P Potato Man (22) (D) B Ellison 12-10-0 — C McCormack (5) —
9 33F14P Mighty Merc (54) Mrs B Broad 10-10-0 — D Bentley 83
Betting: 11-4 River Unshion, 9-2 Blue Charm, Brighter Shade, 6-1 Ballyline, 7-1 Briar's Delight, Cittadino, 10-1 Blazing Dawn.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
P Niven	40	129	31	+84.45	Mrs M Reveley	39	156	25.6	+77.80
A Dobbin	16	124	12.9	-39.39	G Richards	13	66	19.7	-5.99
B Storey	15	133	11.3	-56.79	J H Johnson	13	113	11.5	-68.95
R Garritty	13	82	15.9	-17.85	P Cheesbrough	11	78	14.1	-4.56
L Wyer	11	80	13.8	-28.30	J M Jefferson	10	36	27.8	+44.88
T Reed	9	70	12.9	-13.86	J G FitzGerald	10	55	18.2	+12.15
P Carberry	7	31	22.6	-3.89	M Hammond	10	105	9.52	-56.62

Lingfield all-weather programme

	RON COX	TOP FORM
1.05	Chiagachgook	Laurel Seeker
1.40	Mystical	Ultra Beet
2.10	Red Pepper	Phantom Ring
2.45	Nisaba	Nisaba
3.20	Shades of Love	Robo Magic
3.50	Cossack Count	Cossack Count

All-weather, Equitrack, left-handed course laid out inside turf track and only 1¼m round. No straight sprint track.
Going: Standard. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Low number an advantage in sprints.
Long distance travellers: Plan For Profit (3.50), M Johnston, N Yorks, 270 miles.
Seven day winners: 2.45 Accystan.
Blinkered first time: 2.10 Prince of Salsa, 3.20 Mendoza. **Visored:** None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J-Jumps.

1.05 STUBBS AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP
1m 4f £2,295 (17 declared)

1 (10) 044/0- No Pattern (J52) (C) G L Moore 6-11-7 — I Mongan (7) —
2 (3) 4500-0 Royal Ceilidh (8) D Williams 5-11-2 — Edgar Byrne (3) —
3 (17) 3350-1 Bon Guest (8) (C) Miss B Sanders 4-11-0 — Miss L Sheen (6) 89
4 (8) 0063-5 Chiagachgook (16) S Dow 4-10-11 — R Guest (5) 88
5 (7) 65000/ Call My Guest (J283) (D) R Peacock 8-10-9 — Mrs C Peacock (5) —
6 (6) 04351- Laurel Seeker (28) (CD) Mrs A Perrett 4-10-8 — Mrs A Perrett ●90
7 (4) 0550- Sies Whallan (74) R Hannon 4-10-8 — C Vigors 84
8 (12) 01003- Hever Golf Eagle (188) (C) G L Moore 5-10-7 — Mrs J Moore (3) 84
9 (1) 0000-3 Glide Path (14) (D) J Jenkins 9-10-5 — M Mannish (3) 81
10 (14) 5000- Belevedar (38) (D) J Pearce 9-9-12 — Mrs L Pearce —
11 (16) 00/04- Maziran (J11) R Curtis 7-9-11 — V Lukaniuk (6) ★ 85
12 (15) 00042- Aquavita (28) J S Moore 4-9-10 — Mrs S Moore (6) 86
13 (13) 3323-3 Don't Drop Bombs (16) (CD) R McGhin 9-9-9 — Miss J Feilden ★ 87
14 (2) 08000- Mycotis (J27) P Hiatt 4-9-7 — J Crowley (5) ★ 85
15 (5) 00/0-0 Lar Cru (7) G Enright 9-9-5 — S Findlay (7) ★ —
16 (11) 000-33 Royal Circus (7) (CD) P Hiatt 9-9-4 — Mrs S Bosley 86
17 (3) 00-0 Tauzio (16) J Bridger 6-9-3 — Miss E Moore (5) —
Betting: 7-2 Laurel Seeker, 5-1 Bon Guest, 7-1 Don't Drop Bombs, 8-1 Aquavita, Royal Circus, Chiagachgook, 12-1 No Pattern, Sies Whallan, Maziran.

1.40 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES
6f £2,752 (7 declared)

1 (5) 5300-0 Rotley Spinney (16) (CD) R Hannon 4-9-3 — W J O'Connor 87
2 (7) 0001-2 Mystical (11) (CD) Mrs L Stubbs 4-8-12 — S Whitworth ★ 87
3 (2) 04516- The Frisky Farmer (117) (D) W G M Turner 5-8-7 — C Lowther (3) 84
4 (1) 602-30 Ultra Beet (5) (CD) P Haslam 6-8-7 — L Charnock ★ ●90
5 (3) /0-00R Slightly Oliver (5) D Williams 4-8-3 — Emily Joyce (7) —
6 (6) 05-655 Superioo (BEL) (4) (D) J Bridger 6-8-0 — P Doe (7) 89
7 (4) 00005- Melbourne Princess (26) R Whitaker 4-7-12 — A McCarthy (7) —
Betting: 6-4 Mystical, 9-4 Ultra Beet, 6-1 Rotley Spinney, 10-1 The Frisky Farmer, Melbourne Princess, 14-1 Superioo, 33-1 Slightly Oliver.

2.10 SNAFFLES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
6f £2,712 (7 declared)

1 (5) 00- Magic Morning (78) W Musson 9-0 — D O'Shea —
2 (7) 0-6 Prince of Salsa (3) K McAuliffe 9-0 — W J O'Connor ★ —
3 (1) 0002-2 Red Pepper (8) P Howling 9-0 — S Whitworth 88
4 (3) 300-33 Chikapenny (7) Mrs L Stubbs 8-9 — A McCarthy (7) ★ 79
5 (6) 05000- Mariana (105) R Whitaker 8-9 — Dean McKeown 83
6 (4) 22-4 Missed The Cut (11) R Hannon 8-9 — R Smith (7) 87
7 (2) 06252- Phantom Ring (40) A Bailey 8-9 — J Bosley (7) ●90
Betting: 13-8 Missed The Cut, 9-4 Phantom Ring, 11-4 Red Pepper, 13-2 Chikapenny, 12-1 Mariana, 25-1 Magic Morning, Prince Of Salsa.

2.45 MUNNINGS LIMITED STAKES 3YO
1m 2f £2,159 (4 declared)

1 (4) 005-61 Accystan (7) P Haslam 8-13 — L Charnock 86
2 (3) 000-12 Dancing Rio (7) (BF) P Haslam 8-13 — P Goode (7) 88
3 (1) 603-11 Nisaba (11) (CD) J S Moore 8-12 — P P Murphy (3) ●90
4 (2) 030-30 Estopped (7) M Quinn 8-11 — A Whelan 85
Betting: 4-5 Nisaba, 11-4 Accystan, 7-2 Dancing Rio, 16-1 Estopped.

3.20 CECIL ALDIN HANDICAP
1m £3,518 (11 declared)

1 (11) 40634- Brilliant Red (42) (D) P Hedger 5-10-0 — A Clark 86
2 (4) 13/50- Tough Leader (231) B Hanbury 4-9-13 — S Sanders 86
3 (6) 00250- Robo Magic (28) (C) L Montague Hall 6-9-6 — M Harfield (7) ●90
4 (7) 4335-2 Barbason (14) (CD) G L Moore 6-9-4 — Candy Morris 89
5 (8) 2451-4 Kalimat (11) (CD) W Jarvis 4-9-0 — P Dobbs (7) 87
6 (1) 0000-0 Royal Carlton (7) (CD) G L Moore 6-8-9 — S Whitworth —
7 (9) 24000- Mendoza (36) (CD) D Murray Smith 4-8-8 — C Lowther (3) ★ 86
8 (3) 24003- Shades of Love (30) V Soane 4-8-7 — C Rutter 85
9 (5) 3020-3 Comanche Companion (16) (D) T Naughton 8-8-5 — G Carter 82
10 (2) 0-0316 Paint & Black (2) (C) (D) D Nicholls 5-7-12 — A Nicholls (7) 86
11 (10) 800-35 Fancy Design (4) P Mitchell 5-7-10 — A McCarthy (7) 81
Betting: 7-2 Comanche Companion, 9-2 Barbason, 6-1 Shades Of Love, 7-1 Robo Magic, Kalimat, Paint It Black.

3.50 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP FINAL
7f £9,399 (16 declared)

1 (12) 55101- Apollo Red (28) (CD) G L Moore 9-10-0 — Candy Morris 85
2 (11) 5152-1 Speedy Classic (14) (CD) M Heaton-Ellis 9-9-11 — S Drowne 87
3 (8) /0001- Cossack Count (28) (CD) S Dow 5-9-9 — P Doe (7) ●90
4 (3) 1262-5 Twin Creeks (8) (CD) V Soane 7-9-9 — C Rutter 88
5 (6) 0461-1 Plan For Profit (16) (C) (D) M Johnston 4-9-6 — Dean McKeown 88
6 (10) 0423-4 Stoppes Brow (14) (C) (D) G L Moore 6-9-3 — — 88
7 (7) 5212-3 Palacegate Touch (14) (CD) (BF) J Berry 8-9-3 — A Clark 88
8 (9) 001-14 Redoubtable (16) (CD) (BF) D Chapman 7-8-13 — C Lowther (3) ★ 88
9 (2) 05412- Salty Jack (36) (CD) V Soane 4-8-13 — A Culhane 88
10 (1) 0200-0 Blue Flyer (14) (CD) R Ingram 5-8-11 — B Perham 85
11 (15) 3234-1 Fayik (8) (D) A Newcombe 4-8-10 — S Sanders ★ —
12 (4) 0324-3 Scissor Ridge (14) (CD) J Bridger 6-8-7 — T Williams 89
13 (5) 00840- Gigsent (28) (CD) J Bridger 8-8-0 — F Norton 87
14 (13) 01110- Chipstead Bay (28) (CD) (BF) K Ivory 4-8-0 — B Sardwell ★ 87
15 (16) 03000- Mr Frosty (38) (CD) W Jarvis 6-7-12 — Martin Dwyer 86
16 (14) 01240- Allstand (42) (BF) C Dwyer 5-7-11 — Dale Gibson —
— D R McCabe 89
Betting: 6-1 Cossack Count, 7-1 Fayik, 8-1 Speedy Classic, Redoubtable, 9-1 Stoppes Brow, Salty Jack.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
J Weaver	81	377	21.5	+10.38	G L Moore	75	568	13.4	-60.17
L Dettori	74	315	23.5	-29.05	M Johnston	50	271	18.5	-40.63
A Clark	64	519	12.3	-62.39	R Hannon	44	320	13.8	[illegible]
S Sanders	56	532	10.5	-163.10	J Berry	30	148	20.3	[illegible]
S Whitworth	40	305	13.1	-113.17	T J Naughton	[illegible]	242	11.2	[illegible]
D Holland	39	188	20.7	+14.39	S Dow	27	353	7.62	[illegible]
D Harrison	39	327	11.9	-66.07	R Ingram	25	195	12.5	[illegible]

Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — **Ascot:** 1.15 Power Don, W Turner to F Coton; 2.55 Sydney Twothousand, E O'Grady to Miss H Knight; Tarakhel, M O'Toole to N A Smith & Teuton Boy, P Harris to G B Balding; 3.55 Bless Me Sister, M Hourigan to R Rowe.
Warwick: 2.05 Bakker, J Cox to D Nicholson; 3.10 Folly Road, D Harvey to K McAuliffe & Marine Society, A Newcombe to A G Hobbs; 4.10 Abso Hora, A Stewart to M Pipe; Pride of Pennker, P Murphy to A Newcombe & Sweet Perry, A W Carroll to I Williams.
Newcastle: 12.50 Pupil Master, Denys Smith to A B MacTaggart; The In-Laws, Sir M Prescott to O Sherwood; Treasure Hill, D Chapman to A B MacTaggart; Distinct, J Berry to A C Whillans; 2.25 Falcon's Image, K Morgan to J M Jefferson; 3.30 Mr Busby, J Harris to Mrs M Reveley.
Lingfield: 1.05 Hever Golf Eagle, T J Naughton to G L Moore.

KEEPING TRACK
0891 222 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
ASCOT	771	781
NEWCASTLE	772	782
WARWICK	773	783
LINGFIELD	774	784

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

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Rugby Union

Crunch day for the Newcastle enforcer

Ian Malin on why Dean Ryan is all smiles about playing Bath tomorrow

CLOSE-KNIT, professional and ruthless. A family wary of outsiders, whose home is a citadel that repels invaders. All that could once have been said of Bath, England's top dogs in the old amateur days. But in rugby's new world order Newcastle are the team with the pedigree.

The clubs meet at Gateshead athletics stadium tomorrow afternoon in one of the keynote fixtures of the Premiership season. And whereas the Newcastle tail is wagging — they lead the Premiership with a 100 per cent record in nine matches — Bath are in the doghouse, having suffered a week of headlines that would make the Chinese swimming team wince.

Two points tomorrow would in fact take fourth-placed Bath to within six points of the leaders with a game in hand, not an unbridgeable gap, but the grotesque War of Fenn's Ear has given the West Countrymen a public-relations headache and provides tomorrow's match with an ironic sub-plot.

> 'Criticism gives us an extra charge. It has helped to bond us together up here'

Newcastle, torch-bearers of the professional era, have not been exactly blessed with flattering headlines themselves since Sir John Hall stole a march on a still sleepy amateur world in the autumn of 1995 by pointedly ignoring Twickenham's season-long moratorium on the change to professionalism and using Rob Andrew as a recruiting officer for the then Second Division club.

And Newcastle remain respected rather than loved. Outside the Geordie Nation, Sir John is seen as an aggressive opportunist who took on fusty old Twickenham. Moreover the former England fly-half has assembled a team in his own image; the team they have created together are a tough pack of scabby forwards and muscular backs, a no-frills team with Andrew calling the shots and kicking for position, as obdurate at No. 10 as Tony Blair.

And so when Newcastle, or the Falcons as few call them, cemented their place at the top of the league by defeating Leicester on a raw night at Welford Road over the Christmas holiday, there were more brickbats than bouquets.

Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, weighed in like a prop forward with a ghost-written piece in the Sunday Times a few days later. He claimed Newcastle used gamesmanship and pushed the rules to the limits.

"I cannot believe they do some of the things they do by accident," wrote Dwyer. "They must have a policy of working on and perfecting such tricks ... Dean Ryan and Richard Arnold, two of their back-rowers, rarely pack properly in the scrums because they are not fully attached. And the whole team loiters offside at every breakdown."

Ryan, the 31-year-old Newcastle captain, personifies the club. Like Andrew he is a former Wasp. Unlike Andrew he does not have the clean-cut image of the media-friendly rugby superstar. Bristling and aggressive on the pitch, at 6ft 6in Ryan is a dark-shirted anti-hero of the back row.

There were hollow laughs in rugby clubhouses throughout the land when Ryan became the first, and so far only, Premiership One player to be directed to the sin-bin in a game at London Irish last November.

He had started the season on a controversial note in the opening league match at Bath which Newcastle won 20-13. Cliff Brittle, Sir John's great adversary and now the Rugby Football Union's top administrator, intervened personally after Ryan allegedly struck Bath's flanker Nathan Thomas. Ryan was banned for 14 days and Newcastle took great umbrage.

On Tyneside this week there have been resentful murmurings that Brittle has not been quite so involved in the Bath ear-biting scandal.

Ryan, in the parlance of the game, can look after himself. But he has many admirers. Lawrence Dallaglio is one. The England captain discovered a lot about the arts of back-row play from his masters Ryan and Mike White when the young Dallaglio was learning his trade at Sudbury. Dallaglio, unlike many, will not have a bad word said about his former mentor.

In the flesh Ryan, a former soldier in the Royal Engineers, is not as menacing as his playing demeanour suggests. He laughs off the critics; if only Sir John's other big signing Kenny Dalglish could do the same.

"In a way the criticism gives us an extra charge. It has helped bond us together up here and the players are receiving more credit now. We have used that criticism to our advantage.

"We were delighted with Bob Dwyer's criticisms and found it quite ironic that Leicester were pointing a finger. But in that game we scored three tries to one penalty try so I think there was an element of sour grapes to Bob's claims.

"In a couple of our fixtures this season we have been a little fortunate. We began with a close win at Sale and a close win over Richmond. But since then confidence has grown. There has been a great emphasis on fitness, and Steve Black [the fitness coach] must take a lot of credit."

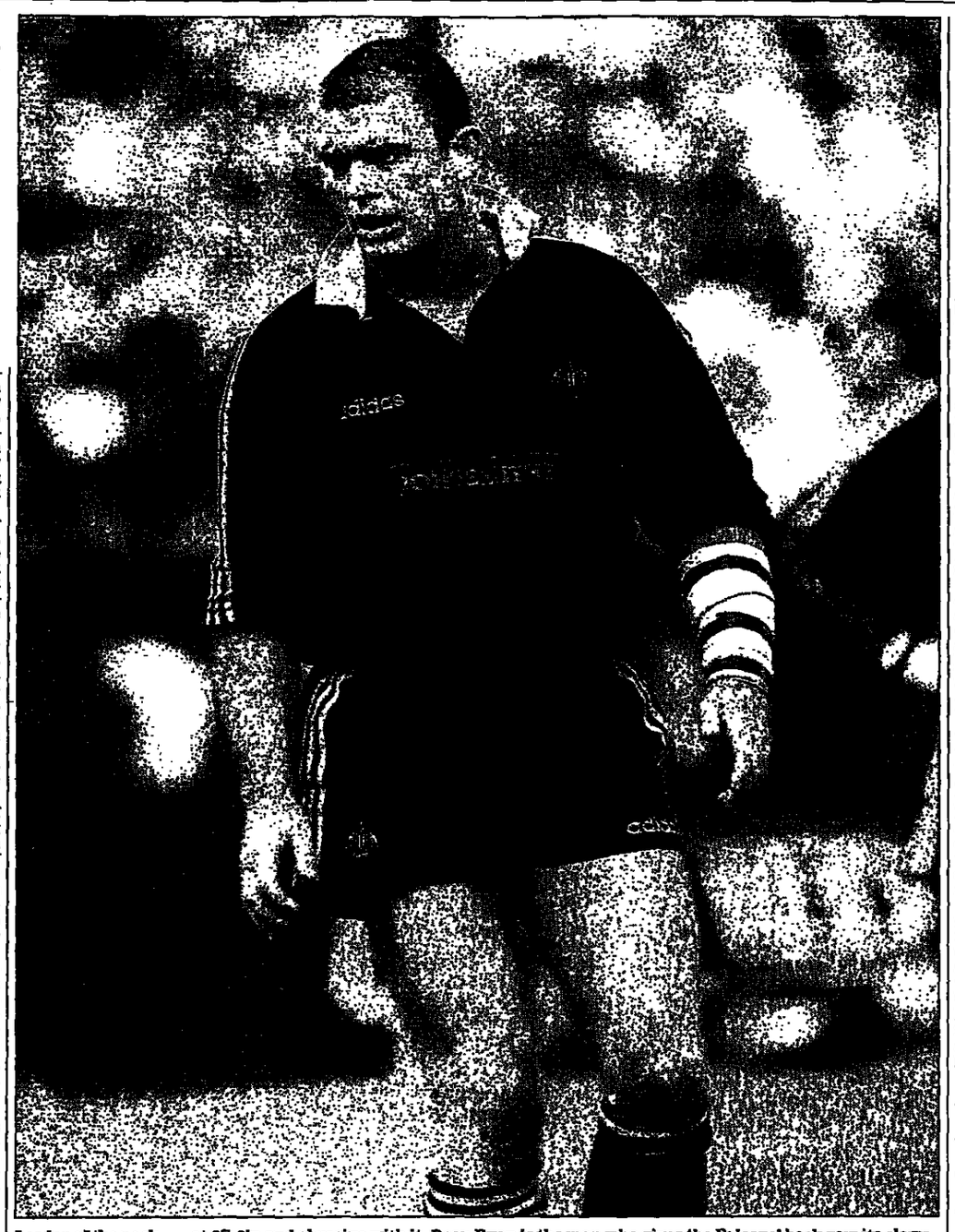
Ryan, Black and the coach Steve Bates help co-ordinate the fitness and coaching. Bates adds: "We have been seen as a team that has just waved a cheque-book but you don't just buy success. The biggest factor has been that we had no preconceived ideas when we started out two seasons ago. We had a clean sheet of paper.

"When we were promoted last season we were confident we could match other sides player-for-player, and at the end of the season and in the summer we worked at raising the pace and intensity of our game."

Bates says the club are testing the waters by moving tomorrow's game to Gateshead, where the match will be an 11,500 sell-out. At Kingston Park, with its high winds but excellent playing surface, Newcastle are unbeaten since January 1996.

But tomorrow will be another acid test. "There will be a siege mentality at Bath because of what has happened this week. They will be fired up for this game and we will have to be at our very best," says Ryan.

It has become Bath, the desperadoes coming into town, versus Newcastle, the good guys defending that town's honour. Just the type of turnover Ryan and his friends will be searching for on the pitch tomorrow.



Leader of the pack ... at 6ft 6in and abrasive with it, Dean Ryan is the man who gives the Falcons' back row its claws

Premiership One

Bath throw Guscott back in

Robert Kitson

JEREMY GUSCOTT has always had the ability to glide through awkward situations, but his selection in Bath's team to face the league leaders Newcastle tomorrow at the end of a traumatic week for the club will test it to the full.

Six months have elapsed since his last first-class game, for the Lions against South Africa in Johannesburg, and he would have wished for gentler opponents to help him find his feet.

A broken arm followed by a disc problem which required surgery has kept the 32-year-old Guscott on the sidelines and has even prompted speculation that he might retire. Unlike his old midfield partner Will Carling, however, he still has many reasons to play on.

Andy Robinson's decision to bring him back less than a week after he resumed contact training suggests that the coach has every intention of playing Guscott in the Heineken Cup final against Brive in a fortnight's time, in which case Clive Woodward will be under pressure to select him against France in Paris the following weekend.

That prospect naturally appeals to Guscott, who is looking forward to playing under the new freedom of expression encouraged by Woodward. "I feel as fit as I possibly can be," he said. "All I am lacking at this stage is match fitness, although full training at Bath these days is almost like playing a match."

Of more immediate concern to the European finalists, leaving aside the suspension of Kevin Yates pending a disciplinary hearing on Tuesday, is the fragile nature of their recent form.

Robinson has promised a sharp improvement this weekend and is in no mood to offer special treatment to individuals; the Pumas Federico Mendez and German Llanes have been dropped from the pack. Victor Ubogu switches to loose-head and Mark Regan and Brian Cusack come in. There is also no place for Jon Callard, the match-winner against London Scottish last week.

Leicester, in third place, will be quietly relieved that the huge demands imposed on Lawrence Dallaglio this season have finally caught up with the England captain on the eve of Wasps' visit to Welford Road.

Dallaglio has a bruised right shoulder and Wasps' director of rugby Nigel Melville wants to preserve his biggest asset. "It's nothing more than bruising but we feel it wise that he rests rather than play and risk any further long-term problems."

Wasps, who have lost on all seven of their league visits to the Tigers' lair, welcome back Alex King at fly-half. Damian Cronin takes over the captaincy against a Leicester side lacking Will Greenwood. Darren Garforth makes his 200th appearance in the Tigers' front row.

● Newcastle have postponed their home game with Saracens next Wednesday because they have five players in the Scotland squad.

Swift on the defensive as Exiles drop Mendez citing

LONDON SCOTTISH and Bath, at loggerheads all week, have finally agreed that the Argentinian hooker Federico Mendez did not inflict the injury which left the flanker Simon Fenn requiring 25 stitches to repair his lower left ear, writes Robert Kitson.

Scottish yesterday withdrew Mendez's name from the citing document sent to the Rugby Football Union, leaving the prop Kevin Yates as the solitary Bath player accused of the dirty deed. Yates, suspended on full pay by Bath, appears before a club disciplinary hearing on Tuesday to protest his innocence.

While Mendez and Victor Ubogu contemplate possible legal action against Scottish, Fenn is still suffering the after-effects of last Saturday's incident at the Recreation Ground, complaining of loss of hearing in his left ear.

Tony Swift, Bath's chief executive, criticised the citing of Mendez and Ubogu. He said last night: "I felt that it was a misguided decision on Scottish's behalf.

"Clearly Simon Fenn's injury could only have been caused by a maximum of one person. Two totally innocent people have been cited and, as a result, seen their names splashed across newspapers and television screens throughout the world."

● Philippe Saint-André is a definite non-starter for France's opening Five Nations game with England. A recurring thigh injury, originally sustained against the Springboks in November, has sidelined Gloucester's wing for at least six weeks.

Golf

Ryder focus on Europe

EUROPE's Ryder Cup committee announced a new selection formula yesterday which would have excluded one of the team's biggest successes, Jesper Parnevik, and one of the mainstays, Nick Faldo, from last year's winning line-up. It also ignored calls to empower the team captain to nominate three wild-card selections instead of two.

The new regulations stipulate that captain's choices for the 12-man 1999 team must be members of the European Tour. That would have ensured that the Swede Parnevik, who lost only one of his four matches at Valderrama after being selected by Seve Ballesteros, would have been ineligible because he concentrated on the US Tour and played very few European tournaments, as did Faldo. The Englishman needed the other wild card after finishing outside the top 10 in Europe.

The committee spokesman Mitchell Platts said there was "a general feeling that players should make the effort to qualify for membership to be eligible for the Ryder Cup".

However, players such as Parnevik may be able to qualify by playing only four European Tour matches next year rather than seven as at present. This is because of the inclusion of three new World Series events in the 11 events in which a player must compete to become a member of the European Tour.

"In effect this broadens the internationalisation of the European Tour," said Platts.

The inaugural World Championship Match Play tournament, to be held in California in February next year, will also be included in the qualifying table as well as the three United States majors.

The qualifying period will run from this September to August 1999.

Rugby League

Hamilton bullish about return of the Bears

Andy Wilson

CHRIS HAMILTON, chairman of the Oldham club which rose from the ashes of the Oldham Bears late last year, is calling for an attendance of at least 4,000 for his team's debut game at Boundary Park tomorrow.

This is not a spectacular figure but it would show that one of the game's famous names is on the way back, and would also better the Bears' average in their two Super League seasons.

Wigan, St Helens and even the Adelaide Rams were among the visitors then. Tomorrow's opposition comes in the humbler form of Heworth, an amateur team from York, in a unique Challenge Cup play-off unofficially known as "Round 2½".

The Oldham public have Hamilton, an accountant and a lifelong fan, to thank for taking them this far. When the relegated Bears were wound up with seven-figure liabilities last October, Hamilton gathered together a group of like-minded businessmen to launch the new club.

But there were further problems before Oldham, excluded by an administrative error rectified only two weeks ago, were permitted to enter the cup and the play-off with Heworth was hastily set up.

Oldham should win it to earn a tough third-round tie at Widnes in a fortnight, although tomorrow's game is no formality judging from the way their hastily assembled team were drubbed by First Division Hunslet last Sunday. In any case the result will be secondary to what should be a highly emotional occasion.

In tomorrow's only other game Paul Broadbent, the Sheffield Eagles and Great Britain prop, will play in his own testimonial game against Leeds at Headingley, a fitting reward for one of the game's quiet achievers.

Sir Rodney Walker, the chairman of the Rugby Football League, will fly to Australia on February 3 to finalise this year's international programme. He is keen to present a united British front and take with him a representative from Super League Europe.

That representative is unlikely to be Maurice Lindsay. Sir Rodney forced Lindsay to resign as the RFL's chief executive last week, and the new managing director of Super League Europe remains a *bête noire* to several Australian officials for his part in the Super League war.

Lindsay's successor at the RFL, Neil Tunnicliffe, yesterday vowed to be "an administrator, not a politician". Tunnicliffe, who has been given the job for a three-month trial period, said: "There has been a lot of doom and gloom about the game but I honestly don't think I could take over at a better time."

Britain's Hackney unflappable in the Florida gusts

Elspeth Burnside in Orlando

LISA HACKNEY, the 30-year-old from Stoke-on-Trent who was last year's Rookie of the Year, started the women's American tour with an impressive 73 in the wind-torn first round of the HealthSouth tournament at Grand Cypress here in Florida yesterday.

With 25mph gusts buffeting the course — the players described the conditions as "a three-club wind" — her one-over-par score represented a solid start. With half the field in the clubhouse the American Jenny Lidback, three under with 69, was the only player under par.

Hackney, who earned over $350,000 (£215,000) in finishing 16th in the Order of Merit in her debut season, was reasonably happy with a round highlighted by two birdies. Starting at the 10th, she holed from 20ft for a four at the 505yd 11th and pitched to a couple of yards for another birdie at the long 2nd.

"I played really well and the conditions were so tough that anything around par was a good score," she said.

Joanne Morley, a teammate of Hackney's in the 1996 Solheim Cup, shot 78 but Scotland's Dale Reid was forced to withdraw at the 14th when she injured her shoulder driving off the tee.

By then, however, she was 11 over and it was almost a relief. The 38-year-old was 10-over-par 46 at the turn after a quintuple-bogey nine at the 7th, where she twice hit into water.

Cycling

Pezzo claim of natural steroid is thrown out

THE world and Olympic mountain bike champion Paola Pezzo faces a ban of up to a year after the Italian Olympic Committee yesterday refused to accept her defence that the steroid nandrolone found in her blood occurred naturally. A final decision will be taken by the Italian Cycling Federation.

Pezzo, who tested positive after a World Cup race in France last September, told the investigating committee this month that she had not taken drugs.

The former world champion Johan Museeuw will not ride the Tour de France again. The Belgian, who won the World Cup series in 1995 and 1996 and the world road championship in 1996, twice won stages in the Tour but did not finish in the top 50 in 10 attempts.

"In modern cycling you choose the classics or you choose the tours. I've tried to carry on combining them but it was no longer possible.

"The last four years I did little or nothing at all in the Tour de France. I've made myself look ridiculous."

Results

Golf

BOB HOPE CLASSIC (Bermuda Dunes, Calif): **Leading second-round scores** (US unless stated): **130** B Lietzke 65, 65. **131** A Magee (C) 69. **132** D Duval 65, 67; S Cink 65, 67. **133** B Tway 65, 68; B McCallister 66, 67; P H Horgan 66, 67. **134** H Sutton 68, 66; F Couples 64, 70; M O'Meara 67, 67; S Gump 66, 68; B Faxon 64, 70. **135** F Zoeller 66, 69; G Day 68, 67; S Kendall 69, 66; P Goydos 68, 67; S Lowery 64, 71. **136** S Jones 66, 70; M Calcavecchia 68, 67; D Martin 69, 67; N "Joe" Ozaki (Japan) 67, 69; L Mattiace 69, 67; C Rose 69, 67; B Estes 68, 68; F Langham 66, 70; S French 67, 69; L Janzen 69, 67. **Also 140** S Appleby (Aus) 70, 70; F Allem (SA) 73, 67. **141** J Parnevik (Swe) 71, 70. **142** K Hosokawa (Japan) 70, 72; T Dodds (Nam) 72, 70. **145** G Hjertstedt (Swe) 69, 76.

Tennis

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT: Men: Semi-finals K Kucera (Slovak) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 4-6, 7-6, 6-0; T Henman (GB) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 7-5. **Women: Quarter-finals** A Sugiyama (Japan) bt S Paulus (Aus) 6-2, 6-3. **Semi-finals** A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt S Williams (US) 6-2, 6-1; V Williams (US) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-1, 7-6.
COLONIAL CLASSIC EVENT (Melbourne): **Semi-finals** M Philippoussis (Aus) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6. **Losers' play-offs:** G Rusedski (GB) bt T Muster (Aut) 6-3, 7-6; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt P Sampras (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.
WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Hobart). **Semi-finals** D Van Roost (Bel) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 6-7, 6-1, 6-3; P Schnyder (Switz) bt J Kruger (SA) 7-6, 6-2.
GIROBANK TOUR (Corby): **Men: Quarter-finals** R Matheson (Scot) bt N Gould (Avon) 6-2, 5-7; P Hand (Berks) bt D Ward (Kent) 6-1, 6-3; N West (Hants) bt J Fox (Lincs) 6-1, 6-4; T Spinks (Norfolk) bt A Foster (Staffs) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. **Semi-finals** Matheson bt Hand 7-6, 6-1; West bt Spinks 2-6, 4-4 ret. **Women: Final:** L Ahl (Devon) bt J Ward (Middx) 6-4, 6-4

Chess

WIJK AAN ZEE (Hoogovens). **Round One:** M Adams (Eng) 1, P van der Sterren (Neth) 0; S Gelfand (Bela) 1, J Polgar (Hun) 0; V Kramnik (Rus) 1, J Piket (Neth) 0; F Nijboer (Neth) v A Karpov (Rus), A Shirov (Sp) v V Topalov (Bul) and J Timman (Neth) v V Anand (Ind), L van Wely (Neth) v V Salov (Rus) all drawn.

Basketball

NBA: Boston 97, Vancouver 93; Detroit 95, Charlotte 94; New Jersey 115, LA Clippers 115; Philadelphia 105, Chicago 96; Seattle 103, Miami 85.

Bowls

WELSH MASTERS (Llanelli): **Semi-finals: J Price** (Wales) bt R Weale (Wales) 7-3, 6-7, 7-2; **D Gourlay** (Scot) bt H Duff (Scot) 7-4, 5-7, 7-0.

Cricket

SECOND TEST (Colombo): Zimbabwe 251 (M Goodwin 73, G Rennie 50, Anurasiri 3-68) and 241-6 (A Flower 67no, G Flower 52, Jayasuriya 2-43). Sri Lanka 225 (A Ranatunga 52, P Streng 4-77).
WORLD SERIES (Perth): South Africa 233-7 (J Kallis 111). New Zealand 166. South Africa won by 67 runs.
INDEPENDENCE CUP (Dhaka): India 189 (Mohammad Azharuddin 55, Saqlain 3-38, Hussain 4-33). Pakistan 192-4 (Robin Singh 2-24). Pakistan won by six wickets.
SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Hobart): **Second day:** South Australia 264 (J Siddons 105, Miller 5-64). Tasmania 303-2 (D Hills 134no, J Cox 73).
SUPERSPORT SERIES: First day: East Londons: Border 368-7 (W Wiblin 177, S Pope 100) v Western Province. Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 325-5 (L Klein 104, K Wessels 79, D Callaghan 64no) v Gauteng. Bloemfontein: Free State 345-7 (C Craven 105, G Liebenberg 79, N Boje 73no) v Northern Titans. Kimberley: Griquas 184 (W Bossenger 63, C English 50; Curran 4-38). Boland 24-2.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Washington 3, Chicago 2; Buffalo 6, Vancouver 2; Colorado 2, San Jose 2.

Figure Skating

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Milan). **Women: Short programme:** 1, T Szewczenko (Ger) 0.5pt factored placements; 2, S Bonaly (Fr) 1.0; 3, I Slutskaya (Rus) 1.5; 4, K Czako (Hun) 2.0; 5, M Butyrskaya (Rus) 2.5; 6, Y Lavronchuk (Ukr) 3.0; 7, E Liashenko (Ukr) 3.5; 8, V Gusmeroli (Fr) 4.0; 9, A Drei (Fin) 4.5; 10, Y Vorobieva (Azer) 5.0.

Alpine Skiing

WORLD CUP (Wengen). **Men: Downhill:** 1, H Maier (Aut) 1min 44.89sec; 2, N Burtin (Fr) 1.45.57; 3, A Schifferer (Aut) 1.45.61; 4, H Knauss (Aut) 1.46.02; 5, S Eberharter (Aut) 1.46.16; 6, W Franz (Aut) 1.46.17. **Downhill standings:** 1, Schifferer 362pts; 2, Maier 359; 3, Eberharter 217. **Overall:** 1, Maier 1219pts; 2, Eberharter 693; 3, Schifferer 652. **Nations Cup:** 1, Austria 8,201pts; 2, Italy 3,771; 3, Germany 3,515.

Snooker

WELSH OPEN (Newport): **First round:** B Jones (Eng) bt C Scanlon (Eng) 5-2; P Hunter (Eng) bt P Wykes (Eng) 5-3; M Davis (Eng) bt C Macdillivray (Scot) 5-2; G Greene (Eng) bt D Clarke (Eng) 5-3; J Burnett (Scot) bt J Woodman (Eng) w/o; J Johnson (Eng) bt L Griffin (Eng) w/o; S O'Connor (Ire) bt S Ali (Pak) 5-1; E Henderson (Scot) bt L Richardson (Eng) 5-3; S Storey (Eng) bt M Judge (Ire) 5-4; S Maxwell (Eng) bt K Payne (Eng) 5-4; N Walker (Eng) bt J Michie (Eng) 5-2; D Roe (Eng) bt J Lardner (Scot) 5-4; P Lines (Eng) bt K Broughton (Eng) 5-2; I Brumby (Eng) bt J Prince (NI) 5-4; G Dott (Scot) bt O Hann (Aus) 5-3; T Jones (Eng) bt T Shaw (Eng) 5-3; M Campbell (Scot) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-4

Swimming

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Perth): **Men: 200m breaststroke:** 1, K Grote (US) 2.13.40; 2, J-C Sarrin (Fr) 2.13.42; 3, N Rozsa (Hun) 2.13.59. **100m butterfly:** 1, M Klim (Aus) 52.25sec; 2, L Frolander (Swe) 52.79; 3, G Huegill (Aus) 52.80. **Women: 200m individual medley:** 1, Wu Yanyan (China) 2.10.89; 2, Chen Yan (China) 2.13.88; 3, M Moravcova (Slovak) 2.14.26. **4x100m medley relay:** 1, US 4.01.83; 2, Australia 4.05.12; 3, Japan 4.08.27; 7, Britain 4.13.33. **Diving: 10m synchronised:** 1, Ukraine 278.28pts; 2, China 276.54; 3, US 265.47. **Water Polo: Women: Final:** Italy 7, Netherlands 6. **Gold medal play-offs:** Italy 7, Netherlands 4. **Bronze medal play-offs:** Australia 8, Russia 5. **Final standings:** 1, Italy; 2, Netherlands; 3, Australia; 4, Russia; 5, Greece; 6, Canada; 7, Hungary; 8, US; 9, Spain; 10, Brazil; 11, New Zealand; 12, Kazakhstan.

Sport in brief

Figure Skating

Tanya Szewczenko of Germany, back on the ice after 18 months of injury and illness, took the lead with an attractive short programme at the European championships yesterday, writes Molly Switek in Milan. Few skaters avoided mistakes, not even Russia's Irina Slutskaya, European champion for the past two years. She will start today's free programme in third place behind Surya Bonaly of France, five times the European champion, and Szewczenko. There is no British representative in this competition.

Cricket

Harry Brind, the England Cricket Board's pitches adviser, is to recommend "Matchsaver 3" to Lord's, a £150,000 system that can cover or uncover an entire ground in only three minutes. Made by Tildenet, a Bristol company, it was demonstrated at Gloucestershire's Nevil Road yesterday and impressed representatives of several county clubs. "It's a clever idea because the engine which drives it is inside the roller and it can go uphill and around corners," said Brind.

Chess

The British No. 1 Michael Adams made a fine start yesterday in the annual Hoogovens grandmaster tournament in Wijk aan Zee, writes Leonard Barden. He surprised his Dutch opponent Paul van der Sterren with the rare Four Knights opening and won in 49 moves. Anatoly Karpov, the Fide world champion, and Vishy Anand, Fide's beaten finalist, both conceded draws to Dutch opponents.

Skiing

Austria's Hermann Maier sped down a shortened Lauberhorn course in 1min 44.89sec to win the first of two men's World Cup downhills at Wengen yesterday. It was his fifth win in a row and eighth of the season. Nicolas Burtin of France took second place to prevent a clean sweep by the Austrian men's team, who have now won 15 out of 20 World Cup races.

Ice Hockey

Basingstoke include Craig Teeple, a Canadian forward signed yesterday from an Italian club, for tonight's game with Bracknell, writes Vic Batchelder. Bracknell failed to sign Chris Rowland from Wheeling Nailers of Virginia before yesterday's deadline, extended from December 15.

Tennis

Australian Open: *Pete Sampras's Grand Slam domination, says* **Stephen Bierley**, *will face a stern test from the world No.2*

Rafter can rally home support

THE Australian Open, which begins on Monday, used to be the take-it-or-leave-it Grand Slam. For many years a considerable number of players looked on Australia as being simply too far away to be worth bothering about.

But during the past couple of decades that attitude has almost totally altered, at least for those who aspire to be at the top of the game.

Unlike the other major tournaments the Australian Open frequently used to change venue, with Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth used in rotation. Indeed on two occasions it was held in New Zealand.

Since 1988, however, Melbourne alone has hosted the tournament, the hugely impressive tennis complex sitting alongside the mighty Melbourne Cricket Ground in Flinders Park — now known as Melbourne Park in deference to the city's tourist board.

No Australian has won the men's title since Mark Edmondson beat John Newcombe in 1976. But this year there will a frenzy of support behind Pat Rafter, seeded and ranked No. 2 in the world, who won the US Open last September when he beat Greg Rusedski in the final at Flushing Meadow.

Rafter's pulsating rise — he began 1997 ranked a lowly 62 — was both heart-warming and exciting. The 26-year-old Australian had always been expected to hit the top but the burden of being the next Australian great, together with any number of injuries, seemed destined to mark him down as another Aussie under-achiever.

Without doubt he is one of the most likeable players on the circuit, and remains more than a little bemused by his sudden success. Prior to the US Open he had won only one singles title, on the grass of Didsbury, Manchester.

"I'm still the pile of rubbish I always was," he said recently, which is, of course, totally untrue. What is more, Rafter's thrillingly athletic serve-and-volley game is a direct throwback to the days of Newcombe and Tony Roche.

"I think I would like to be No. 1 now," said Rafter. "I never would have said that a while ago but, like the US Open, things might happen again which I never dreamed of."

Indeed it might happen, although the one blindingly bright and constant star of the past five years has been Pete Sampras, the reigning Australian Open champion, who on Monday will celebrate his 209th week at No. 1. Only his fellow Americans Jimmy Connors and the Czech-born Ivan Lendl have spent more time at the top.

Rafter has beaten Sampras only once and knows there is still a gulf between them, mentally as much as anything. But clearly his win in New York has greatly fortified the Australian, who is based in Bermuda.

Despite having dropped out of the top 100 last year Andre Agassi, the Australian Open champion in 1995, is beginning to look sharp again and the Czech-born Petr Korda, Sampras's nemesis at Flushing Meadow and playing his last year on the circuit, is another danger.

In the recent tournament in Doha, Rusedski, seeded No. 5 next week, looked as if his success at Flushing Meadow had begun to affect him just a little, with the consequent expectations weighing on his mind. Perhaps he should talk to Rafter.

The British No. 1 reached the third round in Melbourne in 1995 but his other three visits, including last year, have all finished in first-round defeats. Not that this should bother him unduly, for prior to last year he had never progressed beyond the first round of the US Open.

Tim Henman, a little heavier and a little sharper around the court, will be hoping at least to repeat his run of last year when he reached the third round before losing to Michael Chang of the United States. That he has done well in the Sydney Open again will have encouraged him enormously after a quarter-final defeat in Doha.

The women's tournament, if anything, promises to be even more exciting. Steffi Graf is still injured and her future in doubt, and Monica Seles and Jana Novotna will also be missing, but all eyes will be on Martina Hingis and the two Williams sisters, Venus and Serena.

Rising star . . . Pat Rafter has moved up 60 places in a year

Hingis, but for a fall off a friend's horse, might well have won all four Grand Slams last year. Croatia's Iva Majoli beating her in the French Open when the Swiss teenager was patently not fully fit.

Last year's Australian Open was Hingis's first major title. She appeared a little overwrought and more than a touch testy in Sydney this week when she lost to Venus Williams, but like Sampras, who is chasing his 11th Grand Slam title in Melbourne, Hingis is a big-match player.

Henman in the mood for Melbourne

TIM HENMAN upset the odds yesterday when he defeated the US Open champion Pat Rafter 7-6, 7-5 to reach the final of the Sydney International. The British No. 2 had reason to fancy his chances of successfully defending his first ATP Tour title when he met the unseeded Slovakian Karol Kucera today.

"It's a great boost to beat Rafter in front of his own fans," he said. "To beat the No. 2 in the world is a big win for me. It boosts my confidence going into the Australian Open and hopefully I can finish off and defend my title tomorrow."

But Rafter appeared unperturbed. "I didn't really want to push it, but also I didn't want to lose," he said. "I thought I hit the ball pretty well today."

An aggressive Henman took the tie-break 7-5 and, refusing to allow Rafter to get into his stride, fought back from 2-4 in the second set. He squandered a match point on Rafter's serve when he led 5-4 but two games later Rafter volleyed a return long to give Henman victory in 1hr 53min.

The world No. 19 was expecting a battle today, however. "Kucera is a good returner. I beat him a couple of times at the end of last year so I know the way I've got to play but he's playing some very good tennis."

Serena Williams saw her hopes of a final against her sister Venus dashed when she was given a 6-2, 6-1 drubbing in just under an hour by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. "I wasn't tired, I was ailed," said the 16-year-old American, who beat the world No. 3 Lindsay Davenport the previous day in only her third professional tournament.

"My knee, my calf, my whole right leg hurt so bad I couldn't move. I just kept telling myself to keep going, but I hurt too much. But I should be all right for the Australian Open after a few days' rest."

However, the Spanish former world No. 1 was unimpressed. "I didn't see that she was not very well, I just think I was putting the right shots into the spots where she couldn't get them."

Venus, last year's US Open finalist, earned a chance to avenge her sister's defeat today. The 17-year-old had an easy 6-1, 7-6 victory against Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Meanwhile, the British No. 1 Greg Rusedski put two defeats in two days behind him to defeat Austria's Thomas Muster 6-3, 7-1 in his last group match of the Colonial Classic in Melbourne.

But there was further misery for the world No. 1 Pete Sampras, Rusedski's conqueror the previous day. In a losers' play-off the American went down 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to the world No. 23 Andrei Medvedev only 48 hours after losing to the French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

The exhibition event is Sampras's first match play since he tore a calf muscle in the Davis Cup final against Sweden in November. He has said he is fully recovered after three weeks' intensive therapy but he has failed to match his opponents in the gusty, hot conditions on the Kooyong Club's centre court.

The other surprise has been the former world No. 1 Andre Agassi, who meets Australia's Mark Philippoussis in today's final. Agassi, clawing his way back after a rapid slide in form and fitness in the past two years, has shown glimpses of his best form and appears to be growing in confidence.

Bringing down Rafter . . . Henman on his way to an impressive straight-sets victory over the world No.2 yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSKILL

Battle of Britons for spot in semis

BRITAIN is guaranteed a men's semi-finalist in this year's Australian Open — provided Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman win their way through to the quarters.

The national No. 1 and No. 2 were yesterday drawn to meet in the last eight of the season's opening Grand Slam event, which starts at Melbourne Park on Monday.

But first Rusedski, the No. 5 seed, will probably have to dispose of Brazil's French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten in the second round, and Henman must clear a path through the American No. 3 seed Michael Chang and the moody but marvellous Croatian Goran Ivanisevic.

The rather better news from the draw was that both Britons will face qualifiers in the first round.

Pete Sampras starts the defence of his title against the only Dutchman in the draw, Sjeng Schalken, who took a set off him in Philadelphia last year, and the women's champion Martina Hingis has a tricky road to the final, with the Russian prodigy Anna Kournikova blocking the way in the third round.

The 17-year-old Swiss miss beat Mary Pierce here last year to claim her first Grand Slam title and this time is drawn to meet the fifth-seeded Frenchwoman in the quarter-finals.

But the most intriguing prospect of the opening few days will be a sisterly clash in the second round between the Williams wonders, Venus and Serena — provided the 16-year-old Serena can eliminate the No. 6 seed Irina Spirlea of Romania.

Sailing

New steer for Silk Cut

Bob Fisher

LAWRIE SMITH has made a second, and this time utterly predictable, change in the crew of Silk Cut before the fifth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race, Vincent Geake taking over the navigator's duties from Steve Hayles.

It is an admission by the British skipper that he had incorrectly assessed the navigator's role in this race, in which he trails seventh.

He had told Geake, who had worked on the project in its planning period, preparing the weather models for computer analysis, that because of the regular six-hourly position reports broadcast to the fleet there would be no need for "a flash navigator" and that the race would be decided by superior boat speed.

Yet this was in direct contradiction to what he found four years ago when he took over Intrum Justitia after the first leg. Smith admits that her navigator Marcel van Trieste, currently sailing Innovation Kvaerner, was then a key figure in winning the two Southern Ocean legs and his meteorological ability was vital.

But this time Smith chose a different style of navigator in Hayles. Moreover, both have been uneasy about their relationship since the first leg, and Hayles is now said to have "stepped down".

Smith commented: "I'm sorry Steve has decided not to continue with the race and I understand and support his reasons for stepping aside. It was time for a change, fresh ideas and a fresh approach." Geake sailed with Smith in the 1989-90 race aboard Rothmans and was navigator on his ill-fated Fortuna, which was dismasted after 24 hours of the first leg four years ago.

The 6,670-mile fifth leg, from Auckland to Sao Sebastiao in Brazil, begins on Sunday February 1.

Hockey

Surbiton lose top scorer as Nicol stays home

Pat Rowley

GREG NICOL, the South African Olympic forward who headed the National League goalscoring list before the winter break, will not return to Surbiton for the second half of the season.

Nicol, who went home after representing his country in a Test series in Argentina before Christmas, has accepted a job with a sports goods business.

He twice scored six goals and totalled 22 for the First Division side despite missing several games because of international commitments. Only Cannock's Bobby Crutchley, top scorer for the past two seasons with 21 goals, was near that total.

Surbiton's other South African, Greg Clark, is fit again and plays against Oxford University tomorrow. Surbiton lead the table by a point from Brooklands and two from Havant.

The Premier Division leaders Cannock resume six points ahead of Southgate, who have a game in hand, and Canterbury.

They were in a similar position a year ago but blew it. This season they still have to play most of their leading rivals twice, and they entertain the champions Reading tomorrow.

Canterbury must fancy their title chances. They have won four of their six matches against the top sides and have the easiest run-in. Sean Kerly, the former Olympic player, is now available regularly.

Canterbury will be watched by Barry Dancer, the Australian who has taken over as England coach, when they visit Hounslow tomorrow. Hounslow will be without Andy Whalley (injured) but they welcome back Brett Gillmon after his shoulder injury.

The free-scoring German Eiko Rott is likely to join Southgate next week. Danny Kerry replaces Billy Waugh as captain.

Weekend fixtures

(3.0 unless stated)
(a-t = all-ticket)

Football

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Barnsley v C Palace
Blackburn v A Villa
Coventry v Arsenal
Leeds v Sheff Wed
Leicester v Liverpool
Newcastle v Bolton
Tottenham v West Ham
Wimbledon v Derby
Tomorrow
Everton v Chelsea (4.0)

FA VASE: Fourth round: Billingham Tn v Bodmin Tn; Braintree Tn v Lymington AFC; Clitheroe v Burgess Hill Tn; Cowes Sports v North Ferriby Utd; Gt Wakering Rvrs v Folkestone Invicta; Hucknall Tn v Wroxham; Kidsgrove Ath v Brache Sparta; Oadby Tn v Tooting & M; Spalding Utd v Birstall Utd; Stamford v Potters Bar Tn; Stotfold v Porthleven; Sudbury Wndrs v Bedlington Ter; Taunton Tn v Herne Bay; Tiverton Tn v West Auckland Tn; Tow Law Tn v Histon.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Hednesford; Dover v Leek Tn; Farnborough v Northwich; Hayes v Kidderminster; Hereford v Kettering; Morecambe v Yeovil; Rushden & D'monds v Southport; Stalybridge v Woking; Stevenage v Halifax; Telford v Slough; Welling v Gateshead.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division Accrington Stanley v Blyth Spartans; Altrincham Tn v Emley; Barrow v Altrincham; Boston Utd v B Auckland; Guiseley v Bamber Bridge; Lancaster v Gainsborough; Leigh Rmi v Chorley; Marine v Colwyn Bay; Runcorn v Frickley; Spennymoor v Radcliffe Bor; Winsford Utd v Hyde Utd. **First:** Buxton v Matlock Tn; Droylsden v Belper Tn; Eastwood Tn v Harrogate Tn; Lincoln Utd v Flixton; Netherfield v Bradford PA; Trafford v Ashton Utd; Whitby Bay v Congleton Tn; Whitby Tn v Gt Harwood Tn; Witton Alb v Gretna; Workington v Farsley Celtic; Worksop Tn v Stocksbridge PS.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier Division Basingstoke v Walton & Hersham; Bishop's Stortford v Kingstonian (Ware FC); Bromley v Boreham Wood, Carshalton v Dag & Red; Enfield v Oxford C; Gravesend & N v Chesham; Harrow Bor v Aylesbury; Heybridge v Dulwich; Hitchin v Sutton Utd; Purfleet v Yeading; St Albans v Hendon. **First:** Abingdon Tn v Whyteleafe; Berkhamsted Tn v Leatherhead; Bognor Regis Tn v Barton Rvrs; Chertsey Tn v Aldershot Tn; Grays Ath v Staines Tn; Hampton v Uxbridge; Leyton Pennant v Croydon; Romford v Molesey; Thame Utd v Maidenhead Utd; Wembley v Wokingham Tn; Worthing v Billericay Tn. **Seconds:** Barking v Banstead Ath; Bedford Tn v Cheshunt; Canvey Island v Bracknell Tn; Horsham v Edgware Tn; Hungerford Tn v Leighton Tn; Met Police v Chalfont St Peter; Wealdstone v Wivenhoe Tn; Windsor & Eton v Tilbury; Witham Tn v Marlow. **Thirds:** Corinthian Casuals v Clapton; Croydon Ath v Tring Tn; East Thurrock Utd v Hemel Hempstead; Epsom & Ewell v Wingate & Finchley; Harlow Tn v Ware; Hertford Tn v Ford Utd; Hornchurch v Aveley; Kingsbury Tn v Rickwell Hth; Lewes v Camberley Tn; Southall v Dorking.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
First Division
Birmingham v Huddersfield
Man C v Sunderland
Middlesbrough v Ipswich
Norwich v Nottm Forest
Oxford Utd v Charlton
Port Vale v Portsmouth
QPR v Tranmere
Sheff Utd v Wolverhampton
Swindon v Reading
West Brom v Crewe
Tomorrow
Bury v Stockport (1.0)

Second Division
Blackpool v Bournemouth
Bristol Rvrs v Burnley
Chesterfield v Plymouth
Fulham v Wycombe
Gillingham v York
Grimsby v Brentford
Millwall v Wrexham
Northampton v Carlisle
Oldham v Luton
Southend v Walsall
Watford v Preston
Wigan v Bristol C

Third Division
Chester v Barnet
Exeter v Doncaster
L Orient v Brighton
Macclesfield v Hartlepool
Mansfield v Scunthorpe
Notts County v Cardiff
Peterborough v Rochdale
Rotherham v Darlington
Scarborough v Lincoln C
Shrewsbury v Cambridge Utd
Swansea v Hull

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division Atherstone v Dorchester; Burton Alb v Ashford Tn; Cambridge C v Gloucester C; Crawley Tn v Bromsgrove; Forest Green v Rothwell Tn; Gresley Rvrs v Kings Lynn; Merthyr v Hastings; Nuneaton v Halesowen; St Leonards v Salisbury; Tamworth v Sittingbourne; Worcester C v Bath. **Midland Division** Bilston Tn v Paget Rngrs; Blakenall v Wisbech Tn; Corby Tn v Hinckley Utd; Grantham Tn v Bedworth Utd; Rushden Tn v Raunds Tn; Redditch Utd v VS Rugby; Solihull Bor v Evesham Utd; Stafford Rngrs v Moor Green; Sutton Coldfield Tn v RC Warwick. **Southern Division** Bashley v Baldock Tn; Chelmsford C v Weston-S-Mare; Cinderford Tn v Erith & Belvedere; Dartford v Cirencester Tn; Fareham Tn v Waterlooville; Fleet Tn v Tonbridge Angels; Havant Tn v Margate; Newport AFC v Fisher Ath London; Trowbridge Tn v Newport (IoW); Weymouth v Yate Tn; Witney Tn v Clevedon Tn.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division Chadderton v Blackpool Rvrs; Holker OB v Atherton LR; Maine Road v Glossop NE; Mossley v Hastingden; Nantwich Tn v Salford C; Prescot Cables v Ramsbottom Utd; Rossendale Utd v St Helens Tn; Vauxhall GM v Newcastle Tn; Warrington Tn v Darwen.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Division Bideford v Paulton Rvrs; Bridport v Brislington; Bristol MF v Torrington; Chippenham Tn v Bridgwater Tn; Elmore v Calne Tn; Odd Down v Melksham Tn; Westbury Utd v Chard Tn.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
Premier Division
Aberdeen v Dunfermline
Dundee Utd v Celtic
Hibernian v St Johnstone
Kilmarnock v Hearts
Rangers v Motherwell

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
First Division
Airdrie v Ayr
Gr Morton v Dundee
Hamilton v Stirling (1.0)
Raith v Falkirk — postponed
St Mirren v Partick

Second Division
Brechin v Queen of South
Inverness CT v Clyde
Livingston v Clydebank
Stenhousemuir v Forfar
Stranraer v East Fife

Third Division
Alloa v Arbroath
Berwick v East Stirling
Cowdenbeath v Albion
Dumbarton v Queen's Park
Montrose v Ross County

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division Billingham Syn v Jarrow Roofing; Consett v Durham C; Crook Tn v Easington CWM; Guisborough Tn v Dunston Federation; Penrith v Morpeth Tn; Seaham RS v Shildon; South Shields v Murton; Stockton v RTM Newcastle.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division Danaby Utd v Maltby MW; Glasshoughton Wolf v Curzon Ashton; Hallam v Brigg Tn; Hatfield Main v Ecclesfield Utd; Liversedge v Arnold Tn; Ossett Tn v Armthorpe Welf; Selby Tn v Ossett Alb; Sheffield v Pickering Tn; Thackley v Pontefract Cols.

S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0 unless stated): **First Division** Arsenal v Fulham (10.45); Charlton v L Orient; C Palace v QPR; Gillingham v Millwall; Ipswich v Southend Utd; Norwich C v West Ham; Portsmouth v Cambridge Utd; Watford v Tottenham. **Second Division** Barnet v Southampton; Brentford v Brighton; Bristol Rvrs v Bournemouth; Oxford Utd v Luton; Swindon v Reading; Tottenham v Bristol C; Wycombe v Colchester Utd.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Cove Rngrs; Clachnacuddin v Brora Rngrs; Fort William v Elgin C; Fraserburgh v Deveronvale; Huntly v Keith; Lossiemouth v Forres Mechanics; Nairn Co v Peterhead; Wick Academy v Rothes.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor C v Rhyl (2.0); Barry Tn v Aberystwyth (2.0); Carmarthen Tn v Ebbw Vale (2.0); Connah's Quay v Caernarfon Tn (2.30); Cwmbran v Caersws (2.30); Newtown v Haverfordwest (2.30); Porthmadog v TNS (2.30); Rhayader Tn v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30); Welshpool v Flint Tn (2.30). **Tomorrow:** Conwy v Cemaes Vnys Mon (2.0).

IRISH LEAGUE: Premier Division Ballymena v Glentoran; Cliftonville v Omagh Tn; Coleraine v Glenavon; Crusaders v Linfield; Portadown v Ards. **Tomorrow:** Shamrock Rvrs v Drogheda Utd (3.15); UCD v Cork C (4.0). **First Division** Bangor v Distillery; Carrick v Ballyclare; Limavady Utd v Larne; Newry v Dungannon Swifts.

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division Finn Harps v Kilkenny C (7.30); Sligo Rvrs v Shelbourne.

Tomorrow
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National Division Arsenal v Doncaster (12.30); Berkhamsted v Millwall (2.0); Liverpool v Bradford (12.0).

Rugby League

FRIENDLY MATCH: Barrow v Whitehaven.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier Egremont v Dudley Hill (2.30); Leigh Miners v Wakefield Central (2.30); Saddleworth v Mayfield (2.0); West Hull v Lock Lane (2.0); Wigan St Patricks v Beverley (2.30); Woolston v Oldham St Annes (2.30). **First Division** Eastmoor v Wigan St Judes (2.30); Milford v Leigh East (2.30); Milton v Moldgreen (2.0); Oulton v Barrow Island (2.0); Shaw Cross v Redhill (2.0); Thornhill v Skirlaugh (2.0). **Second Division** Dewsbury Moor v Featherstone Amateur (2.0); Dodworth v Hull Dockers (2.0); Eccles v London Skis (2.30); New Earswick v York Acorn (2.0); Normanton v Siddal (2.0); Ovenden v Crosfields (2.0).

Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke v Bracknell (8.30); Newcastle v Cardiff (6.30). **Tomorrow:** Ayr v Cardiff (6.30); Bracknell v Sheffield (6.0); Nottingham v Basingstoke (7.0).

EXPRESS CUP: Ayr v Nottingham (6.30).

BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Fife v Paisley (7.0); Guildford v Lancashire (6.0); Telford v Slough (7.30). **Tomorrow:** Guildford v Fife (6.0); Lancashire v Telford (6.0); Murrayfield v Kingston (6.30).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Kingston v Murrayfield (5.30).

TOMORROW

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Peterborough v Slough (6.15).

Hockey

SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE (8.30, Bells SC, Perth).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier Division (8.20, Crystal Palace): Today: Doncaster v Olton; Leicester v Chelmsford; Hightown v Ipswich; Slough v Doncaster; Olton v Leicester; Chelmsford v Hightown, Ipswich v Slough. Tomorrow: Ipswich v Chelmsford; Olton v Slough; Hightown v Leicester; Doncaster v Ipswich; Chelmsford v Olton; Slough v Hightown; Leicester v Doncaster.

MIDLAND BANK WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath v Pontypridd, Colwyn Bay v Newtown, Newport v Penarth, UWIC v Swansea.

Tomorrow

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division Barford T v Southgate (2.0, Alumwell CC); Beeston v Teddington (2.0); Cannock v Reading (2.30, Hatherton); Doncaster v Old Loughtonians (2.0); East Grinstead v Guildford (2.30); Hounslow v Canterbury (2.0, Duke Meadows).

Rugby Union

ALLIED DUNBAR: Premiership One: Leicester v Wasps (2.0); London Irish v Richmond. **Tomorrow:** Bristol v Gloucester; Harlequins v Northampton; Newcastle v Bath (Gateshead Int Std); Saracens v Sale. **Premiership Two:** Bedford v Fylde; Blackheath v London Scottish; Exeter v Coventry; Orrell v West Hartlepool; Rotherham v Moseley (2.15); Wakefield v Waterloo (2.30).

JENSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: One: Liverpool St Helens v London Welsh (2.30). Lydney v Harrogate; Newbury v Wharfedale; Otley v Rosslyn Pk (2.15); Reading v Leeds (2.0); Rugby v Nottingham; Worcester v Morley (2.30). **Two: North:** Aspatria v Sheffield (2.30); Birmingham/ Solihull v Nuneaton (2.15); Kendal v Lichfield (2.30); Manchester v Hinckley (2.15); Preston Grasshoppers v Winnington Park (2.15); Sedgley Park v Stourbridge (2.15). **South:** Barking v Plymouth (2.15); Bridgwater v Weston-S-Mare; Camberley v Henley (2.0); Clifton v Cheltenham (2.30); Havant v Esher (2.30); North Walsham v Redruth (2.30); Tabard v Met Police (2.15)

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE (2.30): **First Division:** Aberavon v UWIC (Cardiff Inst); Abertillery v Merthyr; Blackwood v Maesteg; Dunvant v Cross Keys; Llandovery v Rumney; Newbridge v Caerphilly; Pontypool v South Wales Police; Treorchy v Bonymaen.

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Pontypridd v N Transvaal (6.0) **Tomorrow:** Ebbw Vale v Tucuman (2.0). **Pool B:** Neath v Cordoba (2.30), Newport v Rosario (2.30). **Tomorrow:** Swansea v Rugby Canada.

TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP (2.0) **First Division:** Currie v Stirling Co; Edinburgh Acads v Heriots FP; Jed-Forest v Boroughmuir; Melrose v West of Scotland; Watsonians v Hawick.

Second Division: Biggar v Peebles, Glasgow Hawks v Gala; Kelso v Musselburgh; Kilmarnock v Dundee HSFP; Preston Lodge v Kirkcaldy.

Third Division: Aberdeen GSFP v Gordonians; Ayr v Stewarts Mel FP; Glasgow Southern v Glenrothes; Hillhead Jordanhill v Stewartry; Selkirk v Grangemouth

AIB LEAGUE (2.30). **First Division:** Blackrock College v Old Belvedere; Clongorf v Lansdowne; Constitution v Young Munster; Dungannon v Garryowen; Old Crescent v Ballymena, Shannon v St Marys; Terenure v Dolphin. **Second Division:** Bective Rngrs v Skerries; Buccaneers v Instonians, DLSP v Greystones, Derry v Old Wesley; Sundays Well v Monkstown; UCC v Galwegians; Wanderers v Malone.

CLUB MATCH: Oxford Univ v Durham Univ.

Basketball

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Finals (Sheffield Arena).

NATIONAL CUP: Finals: Men: Leicester v Thames Valley (2.30) **Women:** Sheffield v Thames Valley (12.0).

MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: Final: Plymouth v Richmond (6.0).

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Crystal Palace (7.30); Watford v Birmingham (7.30); Worthing v Manchester (8.0). **Tomorrow:** Chester v Sheffield (5.30); London v Newcastle (5.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Men: Guildford v Teesside (8.0); Oxford v Coventry (8.0); Solihull v Sauvonago (8.0). **Tomorrow:** Brixton v Guildford (4.0) **Women:** Birmingham v Rhondda (6.30); Ipswich v Spelthorne (7.30). Northampton v Crystal Palace (6.15), Nottingham v Leicester (6.30)

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Football

Boro agree to pay £4m for Dublin

Mike Herd

MIDDLESBROUGH have agreed to pay Coventry City £4 million for Dion Dublin after the striker turned down a 3½-year contract worth £16,000 a week to stay at Highfield Road. Bryan Robson is keen to strengthen his Boro squad after off-loading Emerson to Tenerife for £4.2 million.

"We have agreed a fee but there is a long way to go before Dion walks in the door," said Robson's assistant Viv Anderson. "Transfer talks have not started with the player."

Wimbledon, Crystal Palace and Leicester have also been linked with Dublin, and Palace had a £3.25 million bid rejected by the Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson.

The Palace manager Steve Coppell said yesterday he would not stand in the way if his chairman Ron Noades sought to replace him at Selhurst Park. "I was given the job on a temporary basis by Ron and I still don't have a contract," Coppell said. "If Ron thinks Gerry Francis can do a better job than me, I'd have no problem with that."

But Noades denied he wanted to bring the former Spurs manager to the club. "I've had no discussions with Gerry Francis or anyone else," he said.

Prospects of Wimbledon leaving Selhurst Park receded yesterday when the club's plans for a purpose-built venue at a greyhound stadium near their old Plough Lane ground were scuppered. But the Dons' co-owner Sam Hammam said he was still "cautiously optimistic" about a return to Merton after agreeing to carry out an extensive ground search with the local council.

Northern Ireland will play a friendly against England's World Cup opponents Romania in Bucharest on May 30, before flying to Santander to face Spain on June 3. But a proposed friendly against Colombia, also in England's World Cup group, in Belfast on March 25 has fallen through because the South Americans' financial demands were too high.

The Republic of Ireland will play Argentina in a friendly at Lansdowne Road on April 22. Mick McCarthy's team have also arranged games against the Czech Republic in Prague on March 25 and Mexico in Dublin on May 23.

The Bristol Rovers coach Phil Baker has been banned from the touchline for 28 days and fined £150 after twice confronting match officials within a fortnight. Brentford's manager Micky Adams has been fined £500 for abusing the referee after his first game in charge at Griffin Park, against Bristol City on November 8.

Nottingham Forest's out-of-favour midfielder Stephen Howe has joined Swindon Town for £30,000. Grimsby's manager Alan Buckley has bought the midfielder David Smith from his former club West Brom for £200,000.

Dublin . . . fair City striker

Striking bargain . . . Kevin Phillips, who cost only £350,000, in a familiar pose, celebrating a hat-trick against Tranmere PHOTOGRAPH: STUART OUTTERSIDE

Sparkling Phillips provides power to illuminate the Stadium of Light

Roy Collins on the Sunderland striker who cleaned the boots of Alan Shearer but is now following in the footsteps of Brian Clough

BRIAN CLOUGH may be joined in Sunderland's record books today by a young man, as Cloughie refers to anyone under pensionable age, who has yet to complete a full season in professional football.

By scoring in six successive games, Kevin Phillips has already equalled the 1951 feat of Trevor Ford, whom he had never heard of, but needs one at Manchester City today to match Clough's 1962 record of scoring in six successive league games.

Clough would approve of the 24-year-old Phillips, whom the sporting gods have not so much smiled unkindly on as laughed mockingly in his face. Having been rejected as a teenager by Southampton, where he cleaned Alan Shearer's boots, he fought his way back into the league, only to suffer a career-threatening injury two years ago which baffled some of the best medical brains.

"I injured my right foot in a challenge at Reading and I sat around for six weeks while doctors tried to decide what was wrong," Phillips explains. "Eventually Watford's club surgeon Bob McKenny diagnosed a hole in a ligament capsule and operated to put it right.

"I was out for a whole year and I remember sitting at home during Christmas '96, feeling thoroughly depressed and wondering whether my career was over."

He recovered to play 13 league games for Watford at the end of last season, scoring three goals. By then he was out of contract and Watford seemed to think it would be good business to sell him while he could still get around without flagging down ambulances. They off-loaded him to Sunderland for a mere £350,000.

Having seen Phillips score 17 goals this season, Sunderland's manager Peter Reid must now feel like one of those people on the Antiques Road Show who are told that the old wardrobe they picked up for a quid at a car-boot sale is actually a priceless piece of Regency furniture. More aptly, he has found something even rarer in Nineties Britain: a contented professional footballer who says: "I wouldn't swap places with anyone."

This is not surprising when you delve into his curriculum vitae. Clough used to take his players down coal mines to remind them what pampered, privileged lives they led. He might just as well have taken them on a tour of Phillips's previous workplaces — the Sunblest factory, where his mum also worked; a Hoddesdon company where he delivered radiators and boilers; and the electronics company Dixon, where he stacked shelves and lorries with computers and televisions.

None of this would have been necessary had Southampton shared his belief that he was a natural goalscorer. Instead, they looked at his phenomenal school goalscoring record, stood him against a goalpost and decided that, at 5ft 7in, he would make a perfect right-back.

The sporting gods have not so much smiled unkindly on him as laughed mockingly in his face

Finally, his manager Chris Nicholl delivered the cruellest speech a star-struck kid ever hears: "Sorry, son, we don't think you are going to make it."

"It was a devastating blow but I was determined I would make it somewhere else," Phillips says. "When I told work-mates that I was going to become a professional footballer, they gave me a look as if to say, 'Yeah, yeah, heard it all before.' But I was not going to lie down and take it."

When his letters to London clubs elicited polite rejections, at best, he joined the Beazer Homes League side Baldock, who live in the shadow of the mighty Stevenage Borough. Before one Tuesday night match against Fisher Athletic in 1994-95, he was pulled aside by Baldock's manager to be told that no less than Glenn Roeder would be watching him from the stands.

Okay, it was not Alex Ferguson or Kenny Dalglish, but it was enough, all the same, to give Phillips a bad dose of nerves. He overcame them to score a goal and earn a week's trial at Watford. By the end of the season he had made 15 appearances and scored once. The following season he had scored 11 times in 26 games before that injury at Reading in March.

The Hitchin-born Phillips, one of those Southerners who took his view of the North from watching Coronation Street, actually believed that Durham, where he has set up home with his fiancee Julie and six-week-old Millie, would be all cobbled streets and smoky factories.

"It is a lot different to how I imagined it and we're very happy here now," he says. "I think I've won over the hearts of the fans and when I walk around the streets of Sunderland it's incredible. Everyone wants to shake your hand and say well done."

The striking partnership of Phillips and the rejuvenated Niall Quinn has been the backbone of a 16-match unbeaten run that is Sunderland's response to home defeat by Middlesbrough on September 28. Having lost three of their first four league games, they now dream of making the Premiership without the need of play-offs.

If Sunderland are promoted, Phillips will represent one of the few small-money buys from the lower leagues to have made it in an era when big clubs in need of strike power think in millions of pounds and, usually, think foreign. The last player to take what was once the traditional route to the top is Southampton's Kevin Davies, a £750,000 summer buy from Chesterfield.

The two could not be more different as players. Davies, 6ft tall and over 13 stone, is the traditional, bustling leader of the line who relies on strength and power to beat opponents. Phillips, at 5ft 7in and only 11 stone, slips and turns big, awkward defenders more in the style of Ian Wright, another player who, incredible as it seems now, slipped through the professional net as a kid.

Phillips may have a long way to go to match Clough's scoring exploits. Clough scored 251 times in only 274 appearances for Middlesbrough and Sunderland. Phillips has scored 41 times in 82 appearances for Watford and Sunderland.

But Phillips, yesterday voted Nationwide Player of the Month for December, has tapped a rich vein of form and Watford, due another £200,000 if it continues, are naturally watching his progress with interest. If they collect on a player now clearly worth several times more it will give a whole new meaning to crying all the way to the bank.

European Championship 2000

Scotland and England seeded

David Lacey

ENGLAND and Scotland will be among the top seeds when the draw for the 2000 European Championship qualifiers is made in Ghent tomorrow.

The 16-team tournament will be co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands, which means that both countries qualify automically.

The remainder will be divided into four groups of six and five of five, the nine group winners being joined in the finals by the five best-placed runners-up. Andorra and Bosnia-Herzegovina will be competing for the first time.

Uefa has based the seedings on the results of Euro 96 and the present World Cup. England and Scotland will not only be kept apart in the qualifiers but will avoid the holders Germany, Spain, Romania, Russia, Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway.

The Czech Republic, beaten by Oliver Bierhoff's sudden-death "golden goal" in the 1996 final, are among the second seeds along with France, this summer's World Cup hosts. England, like the other top seeds, may be less concerned about staying clear of teams of this quality than avoiding trips to Bosnia, Albania and Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Ireland, beaten by Holland in a qualifying play-off for the last European Championship, are in the third group this time, along with Switzerland and Sweden. They could meet Northern Ireland or Wales, who are among the fourth seeds.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: First seeds: Germany, Spain, Romania, Russia, England, Yugoslavia, Scotland, Italy, Norway.
Seconds: Bulgaria, Denmark, Croatia, Portugal, Austria, France, Czech Republic, Turkey, Greece.
Thirds: Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine, Lithuania, Slovakia, Finland, Israel, Georgia.
Fourths: Poland, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Latvia, FYR Macedonia, Cyprus, Wales, Iceland.
Fifths: Belarus, Slovenia, Armenia, Faroe Islands, Albania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Malta, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Andorra.

Nun but the best say Toon prayers

Football Diary

Martin Thorpe

THINGS are so bad at Newcastle United, they have even got a nun praying for them. Sister Josepha, a long-time Toon fan, had not seen her heroes for 30 years until she took a group of needy children to last weekend's game at Hillsborough. And one look was enough to bring her to her knees.

"I'm praying that Kenny Dalglish will sign a new striker," she says. "We are just not as good up front as we used to be." If this tactical analysis sounds faintly too well-informed for a nun, then Sister Josepha is no football novice.

"I normally watch Match of the Day," she says, though with a rare restriction: "I have to keep the volume down because other nuns are trying to sleep."

She wanted to play rather than pray for Newcastle when she was a girl — but became a nun after Sunderland won the FA Cup.

At least it means she has not had to buy a black-and-white replica shirt. "My wimple and habit is the next best thing," she says.

WAS the following quote made by the captain of the Titanic in 1912 or Kenny Dalglish this week? "We're all right. We're heading in the right direction, and anybody who doesn't believe that doesn't need to be in the boat."

MANCHESTER City are not just having a bad season for them, they are having a bad season for other people too. On Tuesday Portsmouth's Terry Fenwick became the third manager to leave his club within days of a defeat by City, following West Brom's Ray Harford and Bradford's Chris Kamara.

WELL it is difficult to tell them apart, as John Motson might say. Arsenal's programme for the Leeds game included a photo of a young fan posing alongside Dennis Bergkamp, the caption explaining: "Our mascot against Port Vale meets his favourite Gunner, Ian Wright."

NEWPORT Strikers have been thrown out of the Welsh Cup after walking off during their tie with BP Llandarcy in November after one player was headbutted and three sent off. Oh, it was a women's game.

NON-LEAGUE Molesey recently sacked their goalkeeper Andre Bo'e for shouting his name — which sounds like "boo" — too loudly. West Ham and Derby fans sound equally condemning serenading their players Samassi Abou and Mart Poom. And now Dundee United have signed Jean-Jacques Misse Misse.

IT WAS just like old times for Arsenal at Port Vale on Wednesday: a Tankard over the bar and suddenly everybody's happy.

THE sponsors of Colchester's recent home defeat by Hartlepool have apologised to the club, who did not see the funny side of voting Paul Buckle the champagne-winning Man of the Match — seconds after he came on as a substitute.

DOMINICA has decided to use Fabrizio Ravanelli on one of its World Cup stamps. Which fits in well with his second-class attitude and failure to deliver the goods at Middlesbrough.

TODAY'S derby between Swindon and Reading promises another dose of local vitriol. The normally objective Reading programme has been particularly insulting recently, referring to Swindon as "ovine enthusiasts" and "S****n" [sic], and putting the poor turn-out at a recent game down to it clashing with a tractor fair.

IN ORDER to get into Liverpool and Everton matches, sacked dockers have taken first-aid courses and now help the St John Ambulance Brigade. They get free half-time pies too. The only drawback is that they cannot now walk out early when their team play badly (from Dave Bainbridge of Durham).

APPARENTLY Newcastle have sold Asprilla because they want to buy the staff tickets for the Stevenage Cup tie.

City are closer to leaving home

MANCHESTER CITY have moved a step closer to leaving Maine Road, their home for more than 70 years, for a 55,000-seat stadium three miles away which will be built with the help of lottery money and private investment in time for the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Discussions have been going on for several months but this week the club had "positive" talks with council officials who want a big-name tenant for the Eastlands site.

City's chief executive Mike Turner said: "We have not committed ourselves but have moved closer to a positive decision after the council gave a very exciting presentation to our board.

"We don't have to make a final decision yet but the discussions were positive."

Turner dismissed speculation of friction between the club and the council over City's financial involvement. The club want to contribute to the £2 million cost of installing executive boxes and catering facilities.

"We accept that we would have to spend money to install what we would need at the stadium," said Turner. "We have given the council a shopping list of what we feel we would need and they have come back to us in a very positive way."

City are likely to rent out Maine Road, where attempts to increase the 32,000 capacity would have been difficult because of opposition from local residents.

Meanwhile the Aston Villa midfielder Sasa Curcic's transfer to the Turkish club Besiktas is off at least until the summer. Brian Little's £4 million signing from Bolton Wanderers 18 months ago had been to Turkey for talks with the coach John Toshack.

But hopes of a quick end to the Yugoslavian international's unhappy spell at Villa Park have been dashed.

"Sasa has been out to Turkey but things are not going to happen at the moment," said Little. "I am disappointed for Sasa because he needs to play first-team football."

Performance of the week: Kevin Pressman (Sheffield Wednesday), who in the FA Cup shoot-out with Watford saved one penalty and scored himself.

A N Other

DEFENDERS do not come much tougher than this Barnsley-born centre-half who won 57 caps for another country and played at the highest tournament level. He stayed in his home town for seven seasons and then became a citizen along a major thoroughfare before crossing the border into paradise. A Gallic interlude was followed by a roaring finale.

Last week: Joey Jones (Wrexham, Liverpool, Wrexham, Chelsea, Huddersfield Town, Wrexham).

Scottish preview

Gascoigne fit and available but stays on Rangers bench

Patrick Glenn

ENGLAND's World Cup warm-up match against Chile at Wembley on February 11 is just over three weeks away yet there is little sign of Paul Gascoigne returning to Rangers' first team.

The wayward midfielder has played only 18 minutes of league football since November 29 and seems certain to be on the bench once again when Motherwell visit the Scottish champions this afternoon.

He was originally sidelined by a five-match suspension but went down with flu last week and stayed on the bench for the visit of Aberdeen.

Yesterday his manager Walter Smith said that he was unwilling to change a side that produced "our best form of the season" but insisted that Gascoigne would be back in the team "sooner rather than later".

"His weight's good," said Smith, "but his conditioning will be all the better for finally having had a full week's training.

"Aberdeen was the best we've played this season, so you wouldn't want to go changing things. We have a slight doubt about Brian Laudrup, who has a touch of flu, but I'm hopeful he'll be okay, and if he is I would anticipate the same line-up again."

This means that Rangers will also continue without their leading scorer Marco Negri, absent last week with an eye injury sustained during a game of squash with his team-mate and fellow Italian Sergio Porrini.

Celtic travel to a difficult assignment at Dundee United without their captain Tommy Boyd, who is starting a three-match suspension. Tommy Johnson, however, is back in the squad.

The midfielder, unable to command a place in Wim Jansen's team, had been expected to join Crystal Palace on loan. "That will not happen now because Tommy wants to stay with Celtic and fight for his place," said Jansen.

Falkirk were yesterday given permission to postpone their visit to fellow First Division promotion candidates Raith because of the sudden death of their physiotherapist Bob McCallum, who collapsed during a training session.

"Our players are still very shocked," said a Falkirk spokesman, "particularly as he collapsed in front of them."

Dalglish fails to land Speed again

Ian Ross

NEWCASTLE United have failed for a third and probably last time to sign the Everton captain Gary Speed.

Newcastle's manager Kenny Dalglish tried to invest a healthy percentage of the fee he expects to collect from the sale of Faustino Asprilla to Parma in the Welsh international midfielder, only to have his bid rejected by Everton.

Dalglish is believed to have offered a £5.75 million package consisting of a payment of around £4.2 million and the central defender Darren Peacock. The offer was £600,000 higher than Newcastle United's previous bid, which was rejected shortly before Christmas.

Everton's manager Howard Kendall is reluctant to sell Speed and will only consider releasing the 28-year-old from his contract, which has more than two years to run, if he receives a written offer of more than £6 million.

Dalglish, who is believed to have about £6 million available for new players, is expected to recoup from Parma something like the £6.7 million Newcastle invested in Asprilla two years ago.

West Ham have failed in a money-plus-players bid for Queens Park Rangers' Trevor Sinclair. West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp offered Iain Dowie and Keith Rowland as makeweights in a deal for the 24-year-old striker but QPR are reluctant to part with the former England Under-21 international, who is rated at around £3 million.

West Ham's unsettled goalkeeper Bernard Lama returned to Upton Park yesterday after failing to find a club in France before the country's transfer deadline.

Lama, who has been restricted to the bench at West Ham since joining on loan from Paris St-Germain, had hoped to find first-team football at home to bolster his chances of making France's World Cup squad.

"I cannot change my team at the moment to accommodate Bernard because Craig Forrest has been in excellent form," said Redknapp. "He has until the end of the month to try and find a club in Italy but I think he will be staying here until the end of the season."

Final frontier
Henman back to his best in Sydney
22

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Fratton money talks as Tel takes a walk

Martin Thorpe

TERRY VENABLES finally severed all links with Portsmouth yesterday, opening the way for a £90 million takeover of the First Division club aimed at turning them into a Premiership force.

Venables had stalled on signing an agreement to relinquish his claim to a 51 per cent shareholding in Portsmouth after questioning the terms of the offer made to him last Monday.

But agreement has now been reached and this weekend the club's new chairman Martin Gregory will meet the American billionaire Vince Wolanin and the rock singer-cum-Pompey fan Brian Howe for further talks over their potential buy-out.

The pair had refused to inject desperately needed money into the First Division's bottom club while Venables, who was this week banned from being a company director for seven years, remained connected with Fratton Park.

But yesterday Venables's lawyer Nick Trainer confirmed: "Terry no longer has any connection with Portsmouth Football Club. An offer was made to us on Monday which required tightening up. But that has now been resolved. It would not be right to reveal the precise terms of the settlement."

Venables, who was offered control of Portsmouth last February for £1, has been paid about £250,000 to walk away and allow Gregory to recover the 97 per cent controlling interest owned by his family.

The club are losing around £150,000 a month and need gates of 16,000 for home matches to break even. Venables claims that this is a far healthier position than he inherited. But a wage bill of more than £200,000 a month has led to Gregory underwriting costs to keep Portsmouth running.

Gregory said that the former director Terry Brady — father of Birmingham City's managing director Karren — would soon rejoin the club. Meanwhile, the search is on for a manager to replace Terry Fenwick, sacked last week. However, no appointment is likely to be made until the takeover is completed or rejected.

Slow start to the Caribbean tour

Body blow . . . Mike Atherton winces as he is hit off the bowling of Oneil Richards yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE MASON

Jamaica v England XI

England crawl but Crawley stands firm on uneven ground

David Morley in Montego Bay sees the tourists get careless on the scrubby grass

ENGLAND faced an immediate challenge on a poor pitch of uneven bounce and irregular pace. But John Crawley responded well enough here yesterday to indicate that the selectors have acted wisely in handing him their troublesome No. 3 batting spot.

With the first Test against West Indies only a fortnight away and only two warm-up matches in which to formulate tactics, England's team for this opening four-day meeting with Jamaica at Jarrett Park said much about current thinking.

Crawley, dropped for the last game of the Ashes summer, was given his chance here and, though a score of 25 may not sound much to write home about, his technique and temperament stood up well for more than two hours until he was run out through no fault of his own.

Scoring was painfully slow because of both the pitch and a meadow-like outfield until Adam Hollioake arrived to try the aerial route with some success while lifting the total to 137 for four at tea after a mini-collapse in the afternoon.

Given that the first Test will be played on a relaid Kingston pitch of unknown quality, Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad is often a minefield for batsmen and the Recreation Ground at St John's, Antigua, currently resembles a building site, England may one day regard this visit to Montego Bay as a crucially important exercise. Certainly their attitude to it cannot be faulted so far.

Imagine a ground encircled by palm trees with the Caribbean sparkling in the distance and a white, sandy beach invitingly close. Well, Jarrett Park is nothing like that. What we have here is a football stadium with half-finished concrete stands and some scrubby grass on and off the playing area.

The starting crowd was about 200. Locals say that big football matches here can attract 20,000 supporters, which perhaps underlines the fact that cricket is no longer king in the Caribbean.

England, on the other hand, believe they can rule this time after 30 years of beatings in the West Indies, and by their coach David Lloyd's own admission they are declaring their tactical hand early. "Nothing is set in stone but we have only two matches before the first Test," he said after announcing what can now be considered the selectors' most likely Sabina Park line-up for this game.

The toughest choices must have been at three and six, where the votes were cast in favour of Crawley and Hollioake and against Mark Butcher and Mark Ramprakash. Patience will be a virtue for those two over the next fortnight or so, unless injury or changes of thinking intervene, but that is the way of modern tours when matches outside the internationals are kept to a minimum.

No one looked more composed yesterday than Crawley, who was pressed into service after four overs and with the new ball already behaving badly. Some deliveries took off — such as the one from Oneil Richards which brushed the shoulder of Alec Stewart's bat and flew to slip — and others shot through below half stump height. Just as well, then, that Jamaica's attack was without the resting pair Courtney Walsh and Franklyn Rose and without a third fast bowler of Test experience in Patrick Patterson.

As it was, Richards, Kirk Powell and Laurie Williams posed enough problems during a morning session which spanned 33 overs, yielded only 53 runs and brought only one boundary through the thick grass. There were some narrow escapes, inevitably, for Mike Atherton and his Lancashire team-mate but they deserved their bits of luck by displaying the kind of concentration that will be needed throughout this winter.

What cannot be entertained, though, is carelessness after hard graft, and England were guilty of that during the afternoon session when they slipped from 55 for one to 78 for four.

Atherton, having toiled diligently for two hours over 28 runs, clipped a Powell half-volley straight to square leg. Crawley was left stranded in a mix-up with Nasser Hussain, who first came and then sent back his partner, and the vice-captain then lost patience and worked the spinner Gareth Breese off his pads and into the hands of midwicket.

ENGLAND XI
First Innings

*M A Atherton c Murphy b Powell	28
A J Stewart c Breese b Richards	1
J P Crawley run out	25
N Hussain c Adams b Breese	16
G P Thorpe not out	33
A J Hollioake not out	40
Extras (b5, lb1)	6
Total (for 4)	138

Fall of wickets: 2, 55, 73, 77
To bat: †R C Russell, A R Caddick, D W Headley, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell.
Bowling: Powell 10-3-14-1, Richards 12-7-15-1; Williams 12-5-23-0; Breese 17-1-48-1; Murphy 11-0-30-0; Adams 1-0-4-0.
JAMAICA: L V Garrick, R G Samuels, W W Hinds, *J C Adams, M D Ventura, G Breese, L R Williams, †A N Coley, B S Murphy, K Powell, O Richards.
Umpires: S A Bucknor and C Fletcher.

Dalglish needs to reveal his hidden depths

David Lacey

KENNY DALGLISH is one of football's most successful managers. But just how good a manager he really is will surely be determined by events at Newcastle United between now and the end of the season.

Ostensibly there would appear to be little at issue. He is one of only four managers who have won championships with different clubs and at Liverpool he completed the Double.

At St James' Park, however, the present situation demands a depth of managerial talent that Dalglish, for all his honours, has yet to reveal. Newcastle have not won in the Premiership for eight matches, not since Sir John Hall stood down as chairman, in fact.

Two points out of 24 is relegation form, and if they fail to beat Bolton Wanderers at home this afternoon even the most ardent Toon will begin to think the unthinkable. Dalglish's team may be seven places above Bolton, who are 18th, but only four points are separating them from the bottom three.

The good news is that Newcastle have a match in hand, the bad that this will be used up on Tuesday when Dalglish takes his players to Anfield to renew acquaintance with a Liverpool side who have just won on Tyneside in league and League Cup.

This is already the worst run of league results Dalglish has experienced in his 13 years of management: far worse than the two wins, four draws and a defeat which preceded his stressful departure from Anfield in 1991, and arguably worse than the six successive defeats suffered by Blackburn in the spring of 1992 which cost them automatic promotion, leaving Mike Newell to secure a place in the new Premier League with a controversial penalty in the play-off final.

So far the reaction of Dalglish to the impending crisis at St James' has been inauspicious. Wednesday's attack on media critics bore echoes of Kevin Keegan's emotional response to Alex Ferguson's word games two seasons ago when Newcastle's best chance of winning the Premiership was slipping away.

Taken in isolation, the impending transfer of Faustino Asprilla back to Parma might make sound sense. After all, if the Colombian was a questionable asset at £6.7 million he has to be a good sell at much the same price. But Newcastle supporters will add the loss of Asprilla to the departures of Les Ferdinand, Lee Clark and David Ginola and may feel that the attack needs something more to revive it than an antiques road show of John Barnes and Ian Rush.

The mere presence of Alan Shearer on the bench this afternoon would lift hearts on and off the field. But how close is Shearer to full fitness, having so recently rubbished speculation that he was about to return to first-team football?

Either way Dalglish not only has to buy now but buy with the sort of judgment he showed at Anfield in 1987 when John Aldridge, Barnes and Peter Beardsley were acquired for amounts which now look like petty cash. He insists that, even without the money for Asprilla, Newcastle have plenty of funds available, but if his answer to the crisis is to offer Everton almost £6 million for Gary Speed then the fans may feel distinctly underwhelmed, much as the Kop was seven years ago when David Speedie turned up from Coventry.

THAT was shortly before Dalglish's emotional exit left Liverpool with a team in urgent need of turning around. The diligence with which he has applied himself to a similar task on Tyneside still leaves the awkward question of which way Newcastle will be facing by the time he has finished with them.

Having taken Blackburn from the old Second Division to the league title in four seasons, Dalglish could claim to have succeeded on both sides of the tracks. Jack Walker's millions notwithstanding. But unless his present results improve, St James' Park may yearn for the basic nuts-and-bolts management of men like Joe Kinnear and Dave Bassett. Or, if it comes to that, Jim Smith, who resigned from the Newcastle job in 1991.

There used to be those who doubted whether Dalglish could even manage Hartlepool. Since the latter could not afford his green fees let alone his salary, the question will always be academic. But Brian Clough began at Hartlepool and never regretted the experience. Maybe Dalglish is just beginning to find out what management, real management, is all about. And a lot of it is about not buying less able players than those you sell.

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 21,174

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to The Guardian Crossword, P.O. Box 14641, London, EC1R 3JX, or Fax to 0171 278 9115 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday January 26.

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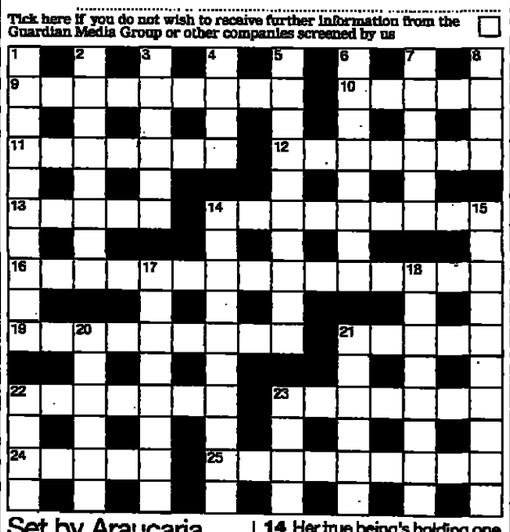


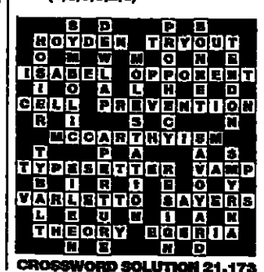
Set by Araucaria

Across

9 Casserole with a touch of a touch of the untouchable? (3,6)
10 Authorisation for a relation — of the giraffe (5)
11 A female one's nuts about, subject to inflation (3,4)
12 My ex is a telltale (3,4)
13 Cited for contempt? That would be telling (5)
14 Her true being's holding one to 7 that are left (9)
16 Abusive word to police with their blowers brings disaster (4,3,8)
19 Article in river bed is for wearing in the country (5,4)
21 Clay half lost in river (5)
22 Debris at church causes loud cry (7)
23 River under Roman occupation, if one goes in for word-splitting (7)
24 Note backdrop, or vice versa (5)
25 Coin-shaped fossil: miners get cross about it (9)

Down

1 Hat among tiles? (7-3)
2 Power may assist the committee (8)
3 Two little houses to 6? (6)
4 See 8
5 See 6
6,14,5 11 said Wild Dog's nose was unemployed, as fashion decreed (8,3,7,2,2,4,2)
7 Among the boys that's the girls (6)
8,4 Where 11 might be handy: if in doubt, raffle it (4,4)
14 See 6
15 Source of oil in the Home Counties? Id., v. diamonds (6,4)
17 See 21 down
18 Hide from pride (4,4)
20 Mistaken in chivalry? (6)
21,17,22,23 11's saying "Mice meet mouse" means dope's being peddled (4,2,3,3,2,8)



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"Victoria Wood wasn't glamorous or apologetic. She takes the piss out of people while being sympathetic to them, and she's very subversive. She takes an average housewife and gives her wild sexual fantasies. I was so encouraged to see women on TV who didn't conform to the Dallas stereotype."
Meera Syal and others discuss their role models

The Week page 18

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